

Intimations.

DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA, LIMITED.
DISPENSING CHEMISTS, &c.

PURE WINES.
We beg to invite careful attention to the following selection from our Wine List, for we have succeeded in combining purity and excellence of quality with moderate prices.

	per case.	per bottle.
Vino Generoso—a generous round wine, green seal.....	6.00	\$0.60
Vino Depas—a medium dry wine with delicate flavour, red seal.....	10.00	\$1.00
Amontillado—a high class natural wine for connoisseurs of Sherry, yellow seal.....	12.00	\$1.10
Delicieux—the very finest sherry procurable, 6 years in bottle.....	14.00	\$1.25
PORT.		
Superior quality.....	10.00	\$1.00
Invalid Port, gold seal.....	12.00	\$1.10
Old Tawny, soft and mature, black seal.....	14.00	\$1.25
Special selected old vintage.....	20.00	\$1.75
BURGUNDY.		
Beauve—a full bodied Red Burgundy with strengthening properties.....	14.00	\$1.25
Chablis—a mellow White Burgundy, fine flavour and bouquet.....	14.00	\$1.25
CHAMPAGNE.		
Avize—a well matured, specially selected dry wine.....	18.00	\$1.75
Lemoine—Vin brut—Cuvee Royale. As Supplied regularly to the Prince of Wales, House of Commons, and the chief clubs in London, &c.....	22.00	\$2.00
Per case of 24 bottles.....	23.00	\$1.00

We are sole Agents in China for the Sale of this splendid Wine.
(Telephone No. 66.)
Nos. 22 & 24, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.
Hongkong, 9th March, 1891.



BY APPOINTMENT.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.
(ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.)
HONGKONG.

WE invite attention to the following old lauded Brands, all of which are of excellent quality and good value for the money.
The same being specially selected by our London House, and brought direct from the most noted Shippers, are imported in wood and bottled by ourselves, thus enabling us to supply the best growths at moderate prices.

IN ordering it is only necessary to state the name and quantity of Wine or Spirit wanted, and initial letter for quality desired.
Orders through Local Post or by Telegram receive prompt attention.

PORTS. (For Invalids and general use.)

	Per Case.	Per Bot.
A Alto Douro, good quality, Green Capsule.....	10	\$1.00
B Vintage, Superior quality, Red Capsule.....	12	1.10
C Fine Old Vintage, superior quality, Black Seal Capsule.....	14	1.25
D Very Fine Old Vintage, extra superior, Violet Capsule (Old Bottled).....	18	1.50

SHERRIES.

	Per Case.	Per Bot.
A Delicate Pale Dry, dinner wine, Green Capsule.....	6	0.60
B Superior Pale Dry, dinner wine, Green Seal Capsule.....	7.50	0.75
C Mazarin's White Capsule.....	10	1.00
CC Superior Old Dry, Pale Natural Sherry, Red Seal Capsule.....	10	1.00
D Very Superior Old Pale Dry, choice old wine, White Seal Capsule.....	14	1.50
E Extra Superior Old Pale Dry, very finest quality, Black Seal Capsule (Old Bottled).....	14	1.50

CLARETS.

	Per Case.	Per Bot.
A Superior Breakfast Claret, Red Capsule.....	4	\$4.50
B St. Emilion, Red Capsule.....	4.50	5.00
C St. Julien.....	11	12.00
D La Rose.....	11	12.00

BRANDY.

	Per Case.	Per Bot.
A Hennessy's Old Pale, Red Capsule.....	12	\$1.10
B Superior Very Old Cognac, Red Capsule.....	14	1.25
C Very Old Liqueur Cognac, Red Capsule.....	18	1.50
D Hennessy's Finest Very Old Liqueur Cognac, 1872 Vintage, Red Capsule.....	24	2.00

SCOTCH WHISKY.

	Per Case.	Per Bot.
A Thorne's Blend, White Capsule.....	8	0.75
B Watson's Glenlivet Mellow Blend, Blue Capsule.....	8	0.75
C Watson's Aboulay-Glenlivet, Red Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark.....	8	0.75
D Watson's H K D Blend of the Finest Scotch Malt Whiskies, Violet Capsule.....	10	1.00
E Watson's Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky, Gold Capsule.....	12	1.10

RISH WHISKY.

	Per Case.	Per Bot.
A John Jameson's Old, Green Capsule.....	8	0.75
B John Jameson's Fine Old, Green Capsule.....	10	1.00
C John Jameson's Very Fine Old, Green Capsule.....	12	1.10
D GENUINE BOURBON WHISKY, Fine Old, Red Capsule, with Name.....	10	1.00

GIN.

	Per Case.	Per Bot.
A Fine Old Tom, White Capsule.....	4.50	0.40
B Fine Unsweetened, White Capsule.....	4.50	0.40
C Fine A. V. H. Geneva.....	4.50	0.50

RUM.

	Per Case.	Per Bot.
A Fine Old Jamaica, Violet Capsule.....	12	1.00
B Good Lowland Island.....	12.50	per Gallon.

	Per Case.	Per Bot.
A Benedictine Maraschino Curacao.....	12	1.00
B Hering's Cherry Cordial.....	12	1.00
C St. Sigmund's Angostura.....	12	1.00

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1891.

TELEGRAMS.

THE BOAT RACE.

Oxford won by a quarter of a length.

DISTRESSING SCENE AT THE WRECK OF THE "UTOPIA."
A very distressing scene occurred at Gibraltar on the recovery and identification of hundreds of bodies from the wreck of the *Utopia*.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH ARBITRATION.

March 14th.

The Anglo-French agreement to arbitrate on the Newfoundland difficulty has been signed.

March 16th.

The Arbitrators on the Newfoundland difficulty will be Russian, Norwegian, and Swiss Jurists, with two Delegates from France and Great Britain. Newfoundland, however, protests against the arbitration.

THE NEW ORLEANS MURDER.

The jury having acquitted the nineteen

Italians charged with the murder of the New Orleans chief of police, the mob, which included some of the leading citizens, broke into the prison and lynched seven of the men. The Italian Government have protested against this outrage to the United States Government at Washington.

The American Press generally justify the lynching of some of the accused concerned in the murder of the chief of police, declaring that the jury were suborned to acquit the prisoners. The Italian Press is furious on this subject.

THE CHILI REVOLT.

The Government troops have been defeated near Iquique, losing seven hundred men during the engagement.

SEIZURE OF A BRITISH STEAMER BY THE PORTUGUESE.

March 17th.

The Portuguese have seized the British steamer *Countess of Carnarvon* in the Limpopo river laden with arms for the South African Company. The *Times* says the seizure is an outrage for which Portugal must account. The Marquis of Salisbury and Sir James Ferguson have replied calmly to the questions relating to this matter.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THERE will be a game of polo at Causeway

Bay to-morrow, commencing at 4.30 p.m.

The Portuguese gunboat *Diu*, Commander A. Gomes, arrived at Macao yesterday from Lisbon.

A REMARKABLE performance was recently achieved at Auckland, N.Z., when Macpherson, the amateur champion, ran 250 yards in 24 1/10th secs.

MR. C. P. CHATER sailed for Europe in the *Natal*, at noon, to-day. We hope that the sun will still continue to rise in the East, and that the little world of Hongkong will be at ease.

A REGULAR meeting of Zeland Lodge, No. 525, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zeland Street, on Wednesday, the 1st prox., at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

WE are informed by the agents (Messrs. Russell & Co.) that the E. & A. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Airle* left Port Darwin for this port yesterday, and may be expected to arrive on the 2nd April.

MR. F. W. Maitland, Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial Hospital, acknowledges with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospital:—S. B. Bhabha \$25; A. Parcoe \$25.

THE *Formosa*, Capt. J. Lewis, is to take the place of the ill-fated *Nanjing* on Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co.'s Hongkong-Manila line, and sails for Manila, via Amoy, at daylight to-morrow.

KING HUMBERT of Italy has assured his good friends, the Kaisers of Germany and Austria-Hungary, that the change of his Ministry will have no injurious effect on the stability of the Triple Alliance.

THE officers and crew of the steamship *Strathendrick*, which foundered after collision with the *Devohurst* off Sourabaya, a short time since, arrived at Singapore on the 16th inst. by the Dutch steamer *Sri Bandjar*, and are at present staying at the Sailors' Home at that place.

THE longest canal in the world is the Grand Canal of China, which starts from Peking, connects the Hoang-ho, Yangtze-kiang and the mouth of other rivers, passes by the gates of forty-one cities, and with its branches, affords nearly 2,000 miles of water communication in the heart of the Empire.

THE Post Office will be closed on Good Friday, the 27th inst., and on Easter Monday, the 30th inst., excepting between the hours of 8 and 9 a.m. of each date. The Money Order Office will, however, be entirely closed. The Night Box, on the contrary, will be left open as is customary on Sundays and public holidays.

THE Court of Appeals of Missouri holds that no person in the State may lawfully engage in the practice of selling liquors by the drink without a dram-licence. This will break up a hundred or more "clubs" in St. Louis, engaged to evade the liquor law. Just the hint in this that our local gambling reformers might practically utilize!

BRIGAND Henry M. Stanley says he is weary of lecturing in the United States. His trip through that country has been made with great economy of time, and the lecturer has had no opportunity for rest or recuperation. He says he finds lecturing in America much more exciting than sojourning in Africa. We sympathise with his unfortunate audience.

THE late Chief Rabbi of London's "Ethical Will," published in the *Graphic*, contains this exhortation: "Whatever be your calling, continue to shun, oh, my dear ones, as I know you do, every kind of usury, for usury still constitutes, alas! the malignant cancer which eats into the vitality of the House of Israel." This exhortation, it is needless to say, has been most faithfully obeyed by the ancient people.

A CHINAMAN, named Lau Atak, was arrested last night by virtue of a warrant issued upon information given by Mr. R. Tucker, manager of the Hongkong Hotel. It seems that Atak was up before the court in August last, in respect to the receipt by him of 195 bottles of liquor, well knowing them to have been stolen from the Hongkong Hotel. The hearing was remanded for a day or two and the defendant allowed out on bail in one security of \$500. When the case was "called on" on the 5th of August last, Atak was *non est*, and in consequence his bail was forfeited and a warrant issued for his arrest. The hearing of the case is set down for to-morrow morning.

LADIES defend the wearing of corsets on economic grounds—there is less waist. Yahl.

INSTANTANEOUS death was the result of a fall sustained by a coolie yesterday who overbalanced himself whilst walking down a plank with a log of wood with which he was loading a junk. The unfortunate man fell head foremost to a depth of fully 12 feet fracturing his skull and breaking his right arm and left leg. The cause of death being known, it is hardly likely that there will be any magisterial inquiry into the circumstances.

It is reported that the M. M. steamer *Caledonia*, which left here, homeward bound, on the 17th inst. met with a slight mishap while entering the Saigon River. It appears that she ran foul of the U. S. ship *Africa* which was lying at anchor in the river off Cape St. James at the time, but no great amount of damage was done. Some of the yards were brought down on deck, one or two boats were smashed, and a portion of the rigging carried away, otherwise the vessel was uninjured.

FRANCE is suffering almost as much as Germany from the overworking of the learned professions. Fifteen thousand schoolmistresses, 7,000 primary schoolmasters and 500 high school instructors are looking in vain for employment. There are 27,000 French physicians, that is about 6,000 or 7,000 more than there are in Germany.

AN incident of rather a sad nature occurred in Singapore on the 17th inst., which bears a moral that should at all times be remembered by those who are engaged in the practice of a full practice, cannot make livings in their profession. Civil and mining engineers are so numerous that hundreds of them are seeking eagerly petty positions in mines and factories.

THE following, which has rather a familiar 'smack' about it, is reported from Yangchow, where a professional prophet recently told the people there that a certain local idol was omniscient. The news spread like wild-fire, and in a very short time the people began to flock to the temple in thousands to worship at the shrine of this famous idol, and as everyone wanted to be first to do homage, there was a likelihood of a breach of the peace in the district; for it was stated that one had only to ask for what he wanted and it was granted in each case. The news of the immense multitude being gathered soon reached the ears of the magistrate, and this worthy old gentleman was not long before he arrived on the scene. He at once drove all the would-be worshippers away, and then he ordered the priests to kneel before him, after which he had this wonderful idol brought out of the temple, and burnt. 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HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1897.

A MILITARY PROPHECY.

His lordship is also entirely wrong in his estimate of the Chinese as soldiers; he says they possess every military virtue, are stolidly indifferent to death, and capable of inexhaustible endurance. Greater nonsense was never seen in print. The Chinese are undoubtedly brave, and when well led will seldom go back; but they are not amenable to strict discipline, they are easily driven into a panic, their alleged extraordinary endurance is a myth, their physical weakness would never stand against a rush with the bayonet of a foreign army, they do not possess one lota of what Englishmen call dash and Frenchmen *elán*, and they don't like fighting; and wouldn't the soldiers if they could be anything else. Add to all this, with the exception of the *Li Hsing-chang's* foreign-drilled contingent in Chihli and a few detachments on the Mongolian frontier, China has no

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The monthly smoking concert of the Garrison Staff was held last evening (18th inst.) in their commodious rooms, Queen's Road. The readings, recitations, songs and musical selections were carried out with their usual zest, to the accompaniment of a piano and two violins. Mr. Reed favoured the company with a solo on the bagpipes which was fully appreciated and a reading given by Sergt. Major Meridith was received with loud applause. The usual toasts having been honoured, the concert was brought to a close with the national anthem.

Convention; but having negotiated it and got it ratified, the least he could have done was to preserve his interest in it until the port was actually opened. He obviously does not consider what a bad effect this indifference must have upon the Chinese. Perhaps the report is true that he is anxious to pay out Sir Robert Hart for not assisting him in getting the Upper Yangtze opened to steamers. It is the Customs now who are most anxious to see foreign trade flourish at Chungking; and Sir John does not propose to exert himself to gratify the Inspector-General.

The seventh ordinary meeting of Shareholders in the above named Company was held at Messrs. Russell & Co's office, Praya Central, this afternoon (3rd inst.) for the purpose of receiving the report of the General Managers, declaring a dividend, and electing a consulting committee and Auditors. There were present—Messrs. W. H. Forbes (Chairman), D. Gilles, J. S. Moses, T. E. Davis, S. A. Joseph, R. C. B. Brown, G. L. Phillips, R. N. Shewan (Secretary).

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, the reports and accounts handed in by your hands for some time past, may, if you have no objection, be here taken as read. There is little that I have to add to it of interest. The result of the year's work is a very satisfactory one; our debts the [Bank] is being gradually reduced, and it is our constant aim we are doing without any undue

CORRESPONDENCE

DEAR SIR,—As a resident in the Hongkong Hotel I consider Mr. Gaskell has earned the

attitude to the public generally, by official recognition of the establishment, and I certainly think that the Director, through his Secretary, have not improved their position by the communication of the letter which appeared in your last night's issue. That the very deepest dissatisfaction prevails among people in the present state of things is evident, and I think it is not known to the Director it ought to be unless they are either deaf or blind. Mr. Lyell has changed his opinion, in fact, he has changed his mind by Mr. Cresswell's words, he only came

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE
HONGKONG HOTEL

Hongkong 21st March 1891. GROWLER.

[We publish "Growler's" complaint for what it
 may be worth, but there are statements in his
 communication that exception should be taken to,
 viz., the conduct of the "boys" behind the
 bar, and his having failed to extract his eighty
 cents' worth from the Rolls-Royce. The first is
 in our opinion unfair, and the latter well-
 does not evince the possession of any great
 amount of rumpion on "Growler's" part.—
 Ed. N.Y. Telegraph.]

SUPREME COURT.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

(Before Sir James Russell, Chief Justice, and a Special Jury.)

March 20th.

A CLAIM OF \$1,300 ON A PROMISSORY NOTE.

This was a suit brought by John Minihennet, a foreman in the Public Works Department, to recover \$1,300, balance alleged to be due on a joint promissory note for \$5,500, from Mr. Robert Fraser-Smith.

Mr. Francis, Q.C., instructed by Messrs. Denny and Mossop, was for the plaintiff; the defendant appeared in person.

The jurors were—Messrs. E. Burnie, T. Howard, S. W. Coxon, H. Crawford, E. H. Melby, A. O'D. Goudin, and N. P. Dhalia.

Mr. Francis said this was an action for a joint and several promissory note signed by Robert Fraser-Smith and John Francis Webber. Mr. Fraser-Smith was alone sued in this action. The petition set out that on the 8th December, 1888, Robert Fraser-Smith, Editor and proprietor of the *Hongkong Telegraph*, and John Francis Webber, a solicitor of the colony, signed a joint promissory note by which they undertook to pay to John Minihennet, an overseer of works, five months' salary, the sum of \$6,500 with interest at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum.

Mr. Webber had never paid anything on this note, either as principal or interest. The defendant had paid two sums, one of \$500 and one of \$300, and some three months ago had paid, on judgment being entered against him, the sum of \$5,574, leaving a balance of \$1,300 due, with interest from the date of issue of the writ. In his answer the defendant admitted signing the promissory note, but stated that there was a collateral agreement made at the time, by which he was answerable for \$5,000 and Mr. Webber for \$1,500. He further stated that he had paid \$500 and \$300, for which he held receipts, and the amount mentioned in the petition on judgment against him. He further stated that Mr. Webber had paid the plaintiff a sum of \$600 and that Leung Ayon had paid plaintiff on behalf of Mr. Webber a sum of \$700, and that nothing further remained due to plaintiff. Under the provisions of the code, section 62, where the burden of the proof was thrown on the defendant, he must begin. He (Mr. Francis) had stated the pleadings, and the burden of proof was on the defendant to show, after admitting signing the note, that the sums mentioned in his answer had been paid.

Mr. Fraser-Smith said he was being sued for a sum of money which he did not acknowledge owing and it was for the plaintiff to prove his indebtedness. When the learned counsel took upon himself to predict that the defence was limited to one of payment of the debt he overrode the mark. It would be quite time enough for him to prophecy what the defence was when he had heard it.

His lordship said he thought the burden of proof was on the defendant. It was for him to prove that these amounts had been paid.

Mr. Fraser-Smith—I don't think your lordship quite appreciates the situation.

His lordship—Don't be impatient!

Mr. Fraser-Smith—I did not intend to be, my lord.

His lordship—I preside here, and I thoroughly appreciate the position. You say this \$1,300 has been paid and it is for you to prove it.

Mr. Fraser-Smith—Certainly, my lord, if that is your lordship's ruling. I only wish to disabuse your mind of the idea that I intended to be impatient. I think your lordship entirely misconstrued my remark.

His lordship—The only construction I could put on it was that you intended to convey that it was for you and not me to decide as to the procedure. Your defence is that the money was paid and the onus is on you to prove it.

Mr. Fraser-Smith said he quite understood that. He was only sorry that his lordship should imagine for a moment that he intended to be impatient. Addressing the jury, defendant said he had been taken somewhat unawares in the position he had been placed by the ruling of the Court, which was no doubt perfectly correct. In his simplicity he had thought that when one person was suing another for a sum of money in a court of justice, it was for that person to come forward and prove his case. However, the onus had been thrown on the defendant, and he would shortly relate the circumstances of the transaction. In November, 1888, there was a case tried in that Court which was commonly known as the "Salt Corner case"; his lordship presided and Mr. Francis appeared for his (Mr. Fraser-Smith's) friends. He was acting for certain Chinese concerned in that case, and had entered into arrangements on their behalf for the purchase of two gunboats in Canton. Disputes arose amongst the Chinese, the case came into Court, and the parties for whom he was acting lost the case. They were unable to carry out the contract that he had entered into on their behalf and he was left responsible. Some \$10,000 was required for the purchase of these gunboats and Mr. Webber, who acted in the case as solicitor, agreed to arrange a loan for \$5,000. Mr. Webber did so, and on the 8th December, 1888, defendant learned that the lender was Mr. Minihennet, of the Public Works Department. When he went to sign the promissory note, Mr. Webber, who was apparently in a flourishing state of business, said he wanted accommodation for a short time, and asked him if he objected to signing a joint note for \$6,500 of which he (Webber) was to have \$1,500. He consented and signed the note, but to make sure that there should be no mistake, in the presence of the plaintiff a document was drawn up and signed by Mr. Webber and himself stating that \$1,500 was to be lent to him, and the other \$1,500 to Mr. Webber.

His lordship—The instrument upon which you are being sued is the joint promissory note, which the plaintiff holds as security.

Mr. Fraser-Smith said he submitted that there were circumstances under which even a promissory note might be set aside. He submitted that he ought to be allowed to make the existence of this agreement known to the jury. He had paid to the plaintiff through Mr. Webber two sums, one of \$300 and one of \$500, and he had been informed by Mr. Webber, when he made the last payment that he (Webber) had added another \$300 to what he had handed over to Minihennet. He had over and over again made application to Minihennet to render him an ac-

count of what he was personally liable for and he would settle, but Minihennet had never done so. It was only when Webber had left the colony that this action was commenced. Even when he received a letter from plaintiff's solicitors he had written asking for an account to be sent him and he would pay it. An account was sent him but it was incorrect. The \$300 paid was not credited to him at all.

Mr. Francis—That amount went to the credit of interest that was overdue. There was never anything paid on account of principal.

Mr. Fraser-Smith—The statement made by the learned counsel is an absolute falsehood.

His lordship—I don't think that is a proper expression to use with reference to the learned counsel.

Mr. Francis—Do not interrupt him, my lord; please let him go on. He is only dying himself deeper and deeper in lies.

Mr. Fraser-Smith—I apologise to the Court for using an improper expression—not to the learned counsel.

The following evidence on behalf of the defendant was then called—

Leung Ayon examined by the defendant, said—I am a shipchandler. I have been in Hongkong for over twenty years. In June last I entered into business relations with Mr. Webber. There was a partnership talked about between us, but nothing was ever settled. I met you in the Shamen Hotel at Canton in August last. Mr. Minihennet was present. I had borrowed \$1,000 from Mr. Minihennet in July last year on the security of an insurance policy. I did not pay Mr. Minihennet \$700 on account of Mr. Webber. I paid \$700 to Mr. Wotton on Webber's account.

At this juncture the witness began to give evidence in a very hesitating manner, and it was not until hard pressed by his lordship that he could be induced to give a decided answer.

Witness (continuing) said—I may have told you and my solicitor that I had paid \$700 on behalf of Mr. Webber. That was not correct. I never paid any \$700 to Mr. Minihennet on behalf of this promissory note. I never told you when I met you in the Shamen Hotel. I have paid Webber money. I gave him altogether \$1,500. I did not keep it for it. I do not know Mr. Fraser-Smith.

After thought and under pressure for a distinct answer witness said: I went there on the 11th June of last year with a friend, Mr. Van Epps. It was to borrow money from Minihennet for a friend.

Charles David Wilkinson—I am a solicitor practising in Hongkong. I was in Canton in August last. I was present when you had a conversation with Leung Ayon in the Shamen Hotel.

His lordship—How can that be evidence? Suppose Leung Ayon did say he had paid \$1,000 to Mr. Minihennet. I will allow you to proceed if it is not objected to, but I shall have to direct the jury that this is no evidence as to payment.

Witness continuing—Leung Ayon said that he had paid \$700 to Mr. Minihennet for Webber on account of a promissory note. You asked Leung Ayon if he had paid anything to Mr. Minihennet on the promissory note and he said that he had paid \$700. I also sent this letter (letter put in and read) to Mr. Roddy in which I refer \$700 paid by Ah Yon to Minihennet on a promissory note.

Mr. Francis said that the \$700 had nothing to do with the note for \$6,500. There was a note for \$700 signed by Mr. Webber and Leung Ayon, which he had still in his possession.

John Minihennet (called and examined by Mr. Fraser-Smith) said—Mr. Webber did not act as my agent for a considerable time. He has done some slight business for me as a solicitor. Mr. Webber did not lend \$5,000 to you on my account. I lent it to you. I may have stated here on the 19th November that I lent you \$1,000 and Mr. Webber \$1,500. I think I said then that I did not pay you the money, but that I presumed Mr. Webber did. Mr. Webber acted as my solicitor in the matter.

To the Court—The money was lent in this way. I became security in November 1888 to the O. B. C. for \$6,500 on behalf of Mr. Fraser-Smith and Mr. Webber for a fortnight. Mr. Fraser-Smith said it would only be for a day or two, a fortnight at the furthest. When the fortnight was up the money had not been paid into the Bank, and the manager wrote to me saying the money had to be paid. I went to Mr. Fraser-Smith's office; he said he had been disappointed and talked in the "oil" way he does and proposed that I might try if I could get it from the Chinese Bank. I went to Mr. Webber and he said he had no money.

By the defendant—I met you on several occasions before you signed the note. I saw you in your office with Webber a fortnight before he left the Colony and you asked me to divide the note. I refused to do so. I did not see you sign the promissory note. Webber took it up to you; you were sick or something.

Mr. Francis—He wasn't dying, was he?

Mr. Fraser-Smith—I am sorry to have to make a complaint, my lord, of rudeness on the part of the learned counsel. Mr. Minihennet said I was sick and Mr. Francis laughingly said "He wasn't dying, was he?"

His lordship—Oh I never mind; let's get on with the case.

Mr. Fraser-Smith (to Mr. Francis)—I'll settle with you my own way.

Examination continued—I never saw the document signed by you and Webber, in which you state how the money was divided. I had no correspondence with you prior to the signing of the promissory note. I have written to you and applied to you personally for this money before Mr. Webber left the colony. I got a letter calling you on the 14th March, 1890, asking me to call at your office and arrange the matter on the following Sunday. I went to your office but I did not think it was arranged. I did not take any further action till May. I had no reason for not going on with the action till that time. Surely I could choose my own time? I received a letter from you on the 20th May in which you ask for an explanation of the letter from Denny and Mossop, after the arrangement with me. That does not suggest to me that any arrangement had been made. On the 10th June I received a letter from you asking me to call on the following Sunday and make some arrangement for the settlement of your personal liability. I may have called on the following Sunday. I went so many times that I cannot remember particular times. I do not know that anything was arranged. The only thing I wanted was for you and Webber to settle up amicably, if possible. I did not want to force you and Webber into the Court.

Mr. Fraser-Smith—But your policy changed after Webber left the Colony.

Witness—Yes, I can give the reason for that change. I called on you about a fortnight after Webber left the colony, and I asked you what you were going to do in the matter. You said it was very hard lines on you to have to pay this money, meaning the \$1,500 Webber got. I said "We will divide the difference; you lose \$750 and I'll lose \$750" and you said, "No, not a d—d—cash; you can go to Court and get it." I said "Very well, then we shall have to fight." You said "Yes, and I'll make it hot for you." I said "Very well, we'll see about that," and I left. I remember the occasion because, you showed me a letter you had received from a man

in the Chinese Customs, enclosing \$50 to send to Webber. You showed me this before we had declared war against each other. I arranged about the re-transfer with Tsang King of the promissory note by paying the money for it.

By the Court—When the fortnight was up and the money was not paid into the O. B. C. I got the money from a Chinese bank and transferred the note to Tsang King. Afterwards I paid him the money and got the note re-transferred.

By the defendant—I received \$800 interest from you, but I was acting as go-between for Tsang King. I had to pay \$65 a month interest to the Chinese bank for the money. I did get \$300 from you through Webber, but not on the date of the receipt handed to me, 11th May 1889, and I also afterwards received \$500 from you making \$800 in all. I also received \$5,140 and \$529 through the Court, making in all \$6,469. I never received anything from Webber on account of this note except the \$800 mentioned. I did not receive \$300 on the 1st February from Webber. I see the cheque handed to me which is one for \$300 from Webber. I remember now that I did receive that sum from him, but I don't know what it was for. I cannot say whether I received any money from Webber on the 8th March, 1889. The \$300 received on the 1st February had nothing to do with the \$6,500; it was on another note for \$1,000, which I held. I might have received other sums at later dates but cannot state positively for the reason that I keep no books at all—merely jot things down on bits of paper. I calculate interest on loans by writing it off on the back of the debit note.

At this juncture Mr. Fraser-Smith desired to put in evidence the diaries of Mr. J. F. Webber, as collateral proof of payment of certain sums on account at certain dates, but Mr. Francis objected and his lordship upheld the objection.

After some further examination, during which the defendant was frequently interrupted, both by the judge and the counsel for the plaintiff, which resulted in several "passages of words" the examination-in-chief of Minihennet concluded.

Cross-examined by Mr. Francis—In the first instance the defendant and Webber were the money from the Bank. I gave security to the Bank and Webber drew the money. I don't know how it was drawn. I only know it was not repaid, and I had to make it good. I got \$6,000 from the Chinese bank and gave it to Mr. Webber and went with him to the O. B. C. and saw it paid in. In negotiating for this money from the O. B. C. I saw both Mr. Webber and Mr. Fraser-Smith. The joint promissory note was not signed by Mr. Fraser-Smith in my presence. At the time they got the money from the bank I was not there. The money was divided. They told me afterwards, I never received from Mr. Fraser-Smith's own hands any money on account of this note. From Mr. Webber I received \$300 and \$500. I received the \$300 on the 9th July, 1889. There was then over six months' interest due. On or about the 15th January, 1890, I received the \$500; I got it from Mr. Webber's clerk, Mr. Van Epps. There was then more than that amount due as interest. I received no other amounts from Mr. Webber on the account. On the 20th August, 1889, I lent Mr. Webber \$600, and he paid it back to me on the 20th Sept. At the time he owed me another \$1,000 on another account. I am quite sure that the \$600 paid on Sept. 20th was for the loan and had nothing to do with the \$6,500. I never agreed to divide the amount of the promissory note and take two notes instead of the joint note. I have had one other transaction with Mr. Fraser-Smith besides this one. Between the giving of the promissory note and the commencement of the action I saw Mr. Fraser-Smith at his office dozens of times. I never received \$700 from Ayon on account of this note. On the 13th June, 1890, I lent Webber and Ayon \$700. It has never been repaid. I lent Ayon \$1,000 on an insurance policy. There is no truth in the statement that I kept back \$700 out of that sum in payment of this note. Ayon had nothing to do with this transaction of \$600.

Mr. Fraser-Smith, the defendant, then went into the witness box. He said—On the 8th December, 1888, I signed a promissory note in Mr. Webber's office. I had received the sum of \$5,000 some ten days previously from Mr. Webber. At the time I received the cheque I did not know who was lending the money. On the 8th December, 1888, I went to Mr. Webber's office. I saw Minihennet there and he informed that he was the lender. Mr. Webber asked me, in his presence, if I would, as he wanted money, sign a joint promissory note for \$6,500. I agreed to do so. At the same time, the note which has been produced stating that \$5,000 was for me and \$1,500 for Webber, was signed in Minihennet's presence, and the joint promissory note was likewise signed in his presence. I had had previously one transaction with Minihennet through Mr. Webber. On the 15th November, 1888, I had borrowed \$1,500 from him for money, and he had given me the money. I had no receipt for this money. I heard nothing of this matter of \$6,500 until I heard from Mr. Webber on the 11th May, 1889, saying that Minihennet wanted something on account. I sent him a cheque for \$300. On the 20th September I had another note from Webber asking me if I could pay \$500 on account of the loan. I sent the \$500 note, and Mr. Webber returned the receipt and stated that he had paid Minihennet \$100 more. The next thing I heard was that Minihennet wanted \$1,000, when Webber wrote me and asked me to lend him \$500 to pay him something on account. I did not lend him the money, and the same afternoon Webber came to me and told me that he had got the money and had paid Minihennet. I was continually pressing Mr. Webber to settle this matter. Mr. Minihennet was only in my office four times, twice with Mr. Webber and twice alone. I saw him four times at Mr. Webber's, twice at his own house, and once at the Chinese Bank. Beyond that I had never seen him. The 20th March, 1890, was the next I heard about the matter. I wrote a letter on the 14th March and Mr. Webber and Mr. Minihennet called on me. The matter was left in abeyance. Webber and Minihennet were on the most friendly terms and it was agreed to let the matter stand over. In May I received the letter from Denny and Mossop. I looked on the matter as a joke, after the arrangement made. I had dozens of times asked to have the matter settled.

Mr. Francis—Did you ever offer to put down the \$5,000?

Witness—Yes, I did.

His lordship—Did you ever tender the cheque?

Witness—No, my lord, but I had it ready. Well, the legal proceedings threatened fell through. On the 19th June, Mr. Minihennet learned that Mr. Webber was in what is generally known as the "Queen Street". On the Sunday preceding the 19th June Mr. Webber and Mr. Minihennet called at my office. That was the last time I ever saw Mr. Minihennet till I saw him in the Court. On the 19th June I wrote to him asking him to see me on the following Sunday and that arrangements would be made. That was my last communication with him on the matter. The next thing was a note from Messrs. Denny and Mossop threatening legal proceedings. I wrote back asking for an account of what was due from me to be sent and the amount would be duly paid. An account was sent to me, which was incorrect.

Awit was then issued and the matter came before Mr. Justice Fielding Clarke in Chambers. I admitted at once owing \$5,145 and offered to pay it into Court. Judgment was entered against me on the 25th August and I gave my solicitor a cheque for the money. The next matter was in reference to the balance of interest and I had to pay a further \$500. Leung Ayon afterwards came to my office and told me he had paid Minihennet money on behalf of Webber on this account. I afterwards saw him in Canton in the presence of his solicitor, Mr. Wilkinson, and he distinctly stated that he had paid \$700 on behalf of Webber on account of this promissory note. If this matter could have stood over for three weeks, I have no reason to believe that Mr. Webber would have been, and I should have been able to prove conclusively that the money was paid to Minihennet on behalf of this note. It was only because I was sick and unable to make the proper applications to your lordship or I feel certain the case would have been postponed.

Cross-examined by Mr. Francis—I do not think I sent any answer to Messrs. Denny and Mossop to their letter enclosing the account. I asked them to state the amount I owed on the \$5,000. If I did not write to Mr. Mossop telling him I was ready to pay what I owed, I certainly told him I had the money to pay three times the amount. I did not have to borrow the \$1,000 from Mr. Chater and I consider the suggestion grossly impertinent. I got it through the Chartered Bank. Very probably I had to overdraw my account to pay it.

By the Court—It is absolutely untrue that Minihennet ever saw me and offered to share the loss on Webber's \$1,500.

This concluded the evidence for the defence.

Mr. Francis called no evidence on behalf of the plaintiff.

Mr. Fraser-Smith, in addressing the jury, said the defence was simply that the amount claimed had already been paid by or on behalf of Webber. He himself had paid two separate sums of \$300 and \$500 and it was in evidence that on the 20th September \$600 was paid by Webber on account of this promissory note. Minihennet had stated that this \$600 was paid on account of something different altogether, that it was paid on another transaction with Webber. In his evidence Webber had said that he had never seen him before this transaction, had only seen him a few times in connection with it, and yet this man actually had the impudence to speak of him as "Smith."

The whole of the statements with regard to the case made by Minihennet in the box were a tissue of lies, deliberate lies. He had only seen Minihennet four times in his own office and twice or three times in Mr. Webber's, and notwithstanding what had been said and done since in connection with this man, of which the whole colony was aware, he scarcely knew anything of him now. But apart from this the real question to deal with was this, was he (the defendant) liable for this money? He asked the jury to find that this \$600 was paid to the defendant by Webber on behalf of this note. Minihennet had said that he had never received any money from Webber, yet when he put a cheque of Webber's received by him into his hands he admitted he had received the amount, \$300, and said that he had forgotten it. Here was a man, who admitted that he had large money transactions, yet could produce no books or accounts at all. He stated that he kept no books and could produce nothing. The case, resolved itself into a simple question of facts and whether the jury would believe the statements made by Minihennet or those made by himself. In his supreme legal ignorance he had thought that there were circumstances which he could urge by which it might have been that the promissory note could not have been held as binding. His lordship, and doubtless he was right, held that these points could not be submitted. As a matter of equity, he felt certain that any seven commercial men in the colony, considering the intimate and financial relations between Webber and Minihennet, and considering the fact that he (the defendant) had asked and over again asked for a settlement, would feel perfectly justified in setting aside the promissory note. He left the decision in the hands of the jury feeling assured that they would take a just and equitable view of the whole case.

Mr. Francis said he had but a few words to say to the jury and very little with regard to what had just been said. The claim was on a joint promissory note signed by the defendant and Webber. This note, in plain law, made each of the two defendants equally liable for the entire sum borrowed. Mr. Fraser-Smith in his opening address told them the circumstances under which this money was borrowed, and if they had paid attention only to his opening address they might have come to the conclusion that he was in want of \$10,000, not \$5,000 or \$6,500. He had told them that in consequence of some transactions with certain Chinese falling through he was left liable for the purchase of certain gunboats, and Mr. Minihennet corroborated this in stating that he went security for this amount for the purpose of the purchase of certain gunboats. Webber and Fraser-Smith, he believed, through Webber's account, wished to overdraw to the extent of \$5,000. Minihennet undertook to be responsible for this overdraw. How much of this sum went to Mr. Fraser-Smith and how much to Mr. Webber did not matter one way or the other. Mr. Fraser-Smith might be perfectly correct when he stated that he only received \$5,000 and that the remaining \$1,500 went to Mr. Webber, but Mr. Minihennet had positively sworn that he knew nothing of this at the time the money was lent, and that he knew nothing of the document to that effect which had been put in. He was only told subsequently of this arrangement. When he demanded repayment of his money from Mr. Fraser-Smith he endeavoured to get out of his liability for the whole and to induce him to put him down as a creditor for \$5,000, leaving the responsibility of the other \$1,500 with Webber. It was proved that after Minihennet going security for the money Mr. Fraser-Smith and Mr. Webber had failed to pay it and Mr. Minihennet was called upon to make it good. After some difficulty he got the money from a Chinese bank through Tsang King. This whole transaction as described by Mr. Minihennet was a very simple and natural one. Now on the promissory note there could be no doubt that both parties severally were responsible for the whole amount. Supposing that Minihennet was aware of this document declaring how much each party had received; he had still insisted on a joint and several note, and whether he was cognisant or not of the existence of the other document, he had insisted on a joint and several note, and whether he was cognisant or not of the existence of the other document, he had insisted on a joint and several note, and whether he was cognisant or not of the existence of the other document, he had insisted on a joint and several note.

for the whole amount. By signing the note Mr. Fraser-Smith and Webber had made themselves each and individually liable. There was nothing whatever which would support any plea of equity to enable Mr. Fraser-Smith to get out of his liability. The only sums that Mr. Fraser-Smith had paid, leaving out of course what was paid after the issue of the writ, were the two sums of \$300 and \$500. Minihennet admitted receiving these two sums and allowance had been made for them. On the 20th September Webber had paid a sum of \$600 and it had been endeavoured to make out that this sum was paid on behalf of this particular transaction of \$6,500. If there had been no other transactions between Webber and Minihennet and Webber had paid this \$600 to him, the jury would be perfectly justified in coming to the conclusion that it was paid on behalf of this transaction. But the evidence was that there were other transactions between Webber and Minihennet pending at that time, and that there were other moneys due and that this \$600 was paid on their account. The fact therefore that this money happened to be paid on a certain date carried the case no further. It was absurd to argue, as had been contended, that Mr. Webber was Mr. Minihennet's agent in the matter, because it was clearly shown that Mr. Webber was a principal in the matter. Mr. Fraser-Smith and Mr. Webber were both principals and both were individually liable for this amount, and he therefore asked the jury for a verdict for the full amount claimed.

His lordship, in summing up, said the first point to which he would call the attention of the jury was the \$700 said to have been paid by Leung Ayon for Webber on behalf of this promissory note. Whatever Ayon had told Mr. Fraser-Smith in Canton he had stated to the witness box that he had not paid the sum for Mr. Webber. They could not tell what reason Ayon had for making the statement he probably had done so to Mr. Fraser-Smith, but he had now sworn that what he had said was not true, and that it referred to another promissory note for \$700 which he and Mr. Webber owed. Probably when he made that statement to Mr. Fraser-Smith there might have been some misunderstanding as to which note was being alluded to. In point of law there could be no doubt that on this joint note either man was liable for the whole amount. It might be very hard if such agreement, as was put forward, existed; that one was to be responsible for \$5,000 and the other for \$1,500, but there was no doubt that plaintiff looked to the joint note as his security, and on that instrument he was entitled to recover the full amount. The only observation he (his lordship) could make was that it was extraordinary if this agreement was made, as was stated at the same time as the promissory note and in the presence of the plaintiff, that they should have gone to the trouble of making two documents. If the plaintiff agreed to this document why should he insist on the joint note? He might just as well have taken two promissory notes and held each party liable for the different amounts. That was the only observation to be made on that point, with the exception of pointing out that it had been denied by the plaintiff that he had any knowledge of such agreement. With regard to the \$600 which it was stated had been paid on behalf of this promissory note, there was the statement in Mr. Webber's diary that on the same date he had received \$500 from the defendant and had paid \$600 to the plaintiff, but there was no legal evidence to show that this was in respect of this sum of \$6,500. The plaintiff excluded the payment of this other \$300 by saying that it was interest paid by him to Webber on another promissory note of \$1,000. That was his explanation, he produced no books, he stated he kept none and it was for the jury to say whether they accepted this explanation. There was no legal evidence with regard to the other payments by Mr. Webber and the only note seemed to be with regard to this \$300. He must leave it to the jury to say whether they believed the plaintiff as regards this, or whether they thought he was entitled to the full amount of \$1,300.

This jury then retired and after a quarter of an hour's consideration returned a verdict for the plaintiff for the full amount, by a majority of five to two.

Mr. Francis asked for judgment for \$1,300 with interest from the date of issue of writ, and costs.

Mr. Fraser-Smith—I ask your lordship to stay execution for a month. I will pay the amount of judgment and costs into Court, but I ask for a stay of execution in order that I may take the necessary steps for a new trial. I believe Mr. Webber will be here about the beginning of next month.

His lordship—On what grounds do you want a new trial?

Mr. Fraser-Smith—On the ground that substantial evidence as to the payment of these sums will be forthcoming.

His lordship said he saw no reason to accede to the application, and entered an order for judgment with costs.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The thirteenth ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in the above named Company was held at the office of the General Agents, Pender Street, this morning (21st inst.) for the purpose of receiving a report from the General Agent, with a statement of accounts to the 31st December, 1890. There were present—Messrs. J. J. Keswick (Chairman); D. R. Sassoon, N. J. Gomes, St. C. Michaelson (Consulting Committee); W. W. Gaskell, R. A. Gubbay, C. S. Taylor, G. Fenwick, R. Lyall, W. Legge, J. Barton (Secretary), and others.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts have been in your hands for some time, and there is not much that I can usefully add in the way of information beyond what is already shown. When addressing you a year ago I mentioned that the excited condition of the sugar markets during 1889 had enabled the Refinery to show results for that year which were somewhat phenomenal, and that a repetition of them could not, therefore, reasonably be expected; the course of the markets during 1890 has been characterised by quietness, and although the volume of business has been on the whole satisfactory, the margin of profit has been small, the general level of prices has been very much lower than during the previous year, and some of our outlying markets have been interfered with owing to importations of refined sugar from Europe, which had not previously been attempted, except on a very small scale. I am pleased to be able to say, however, that the business of the Company continues in a sound condition, and although necessarily subject to fluctuations from time to time, the prospect in the long run are, so far as can be seen, satisfactory. The shareholders will no doubt be glad to hear that the extension of the Refinery at East Point, undertaken at the beginning of last year, is giving results fully equal to what was anticipated. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions that may be put.

There being no questions the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and submitted.

Mr. R. Lyall seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.
Mr. William Legge proposed that Messrs. J. J. Keswick, St. C. Michaelson, E. R. Bellicot, F. A. Gomes and D. R. Sassoon be re-elected members of the Consulting Committee. Mr. Taylor seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

AUDITORS.
Upon the motion of Mr. W. H. Gaskell, seconded by Mr. Taylor, Messrs. F. Henderson and T. Arnold were re-elected auditors for the current year.

An announcement by the Chairman to the effect that dividend warrants will be ready on Monday brought the proceedings to a close.

A "SCOTCH NIGHT" WITH PATEY.

Over a quarter of a century has elapsed since the present writer first had the pleasure of listening to Miss Whytock, then in the heyday of her youth and fame as the shining light of oratorio and concert-room contralto, a universally recognised Queen of Song. For a goodly number of years after that, many an enjoyable evening was spent at St. James's Hall and other popular resorts with the greatest of England's vocalists, amongst whom Madame Patey-Whytock and her talented husband held a foremost place; and with Mesdames Fatti, Neilsson, Lemmon, Sherrington, Antolietti, Stirling, and Miss Reeves, Stanley, Edward Lloyd, and other well-known artists in their full vigour, the class of talent was the very highest. And after the lapse of all these years it was our good fortune to renew acquaintance with Madame Patey at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, last Wednesday night. The occasion was announced as a "Scotch Night" under the patronage of Colonel Chater and the Officers of the 91st Highlanders, and there was a large audience present, the military element being conspicuously predominant.

It is somewhat late in the day to commence fault-finding, but the "Scotch Night" proved quite a misnomer, a number of selections appearing on the programme which were not Scotch in any sense. We thought the deviation from the announced bill of fare a grave error, but others regarded it as a decided improvement, and as variety even in music is not without special attractions, perhaps the change was for the best. Madame Patey is far and away the most accomplished vocalist that has ever appeared on the Hongkong stage—she is indeed so far ahead of all rivals that during her fifteen years experience as a regular critic in this colony we cannot recall any one who could be fairly placed as a respectable second to the great singer now in our midst. But our Highlanders might not merely a great singer; her art has the touch of true genius—she is an actress of wondrous power and expression in addition to being probably the best of living concert-room contraltos. As with Cleopatra, "age" cannot wither nor custom stale Madame Patey's infinite variety, and it may be doubted whether throughout her long varied and exceptionally brilliant career, she ever sang better or with greater success than on Wednesday last. Her rendering of that gem of Scotch song, "Auld Robin Gray," was a revelation, and held the audience completely spell-bound. The heart-stirring music of this fine old ballad is as much superior to the ordinary run of recognised favorites on the lyric stage as Lady Ann Lindsay's plaintive poem is to the third-rate trash that serves for words in modern songs, and Madame Patey's conception of the sad story and her dramatic rendering of the music were equally effective. In response to the most enthusiastic encore, the singer's magnificent voice was heard to great advantage in that rather quiet and old-fashioned but ever popular "My Boy Tammy." The lights and shades of a charming little story being brought into prominence

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 19th inst. There were present—His Excellency the Governor, Sir G. William De Vaux, K.C.M.G., (President); Mr. W. M. Deane, C.M.G., (Acting Colonial Secretary); Mr. N. G. Mitchell-Innes (Colonial Treasurer); Mr. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart (Registrar-General); Mr. S. Brown (Surveyor-General); Messrs. F. Ryrie, C. P. Chater, T. H. Whitehead, Ho Kai, and J. J. Kewick, (unofficial members), and Mr. A. M. Thomson, Clerk of Council.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

THE MILITARY (EXTRA) CONTRIBUTION.

The Acting Colonial Secretary moved "that the vote for military contribution be considered."

His Excellency said, before honourable members expressed their views on this vote he thought it well that he should explain more clearly the observations which he made on the last occasion, which might have been somewhat obscure, or not clearly understood. It appeared to him that the opposition had chiefly arisen owing to the unfortunate mistake of the Imperial Government in making the increase to the contribution provisional—dependent, more or less, on the augmentation to the strength of the Garrison. The question of whether the additional vote was right and just depended on circumstances, and on the response to two questions: First, having regard to the relative interests of the "mother country" and the Colony, is the proportion of the whole which we are asked to pay now greater than it ought to be in reference to the Imperial advantages which we reap by the connection that exists between the two? Second, if not unduly great, is the amount asked for greater than we are able to bear without serious injury to our own prosperity? He did not think it would require much consideration by honourable members of the Council to give a negative answer to the first question. As far as he knew the promise of the Imperial authorities to increase the Forces here was made in the real question at issue; nevertheless, inasmuch as the additional expense was for our own benefit, how he could not think the amount the Colony was called upon to bear was an unduly large one, when it was borne in mind that it was only about one-fourth of the total cost of the Military forces in the Island—even after making large allowances for the large areas and buildings occupied and apart from the cost of the up-keep of the fleet, for which the Colony paid nothing. He questioned whether anyone, looking at it from the point of view, would declare the demand an unfair one. When as to the colony's capacity to pay, the contribution was a question surrounded with more doubt. After giving the subject very full consideration he had no doubt whatever that the colony could pay it without serious injury, but he could only say that for the present moment. In the course of a few years it might be very difficult to pay it, and the question would become a very important one especially as it was indicated in the War Office despatch that the sum now demanded would not be sufficient to meet the gravity of the situation should the need arise. He was not in the least prepared to say that the present condition of the Colony could not be guaranteed for any number of years. As it was clear that no such guarantee could be given, the question of probable future increase was a very important one, as regards the future. This colony was unquestionably regarded by the outside world as very wealthy; the figures in the trade impressed the outside world very largely, and it must, of course, be borne in mind that our wealth almost entirely depended upon local circumstances. Our wealth depended on our trade, which was far more liable to be affected injuriously than was the trade of the United Kingdom. The trade of Hongkong was rather that of a great distributing centre—it exported articles just in the condition in which they were received. But the trade of the United Kingdom consisted largely in the production of manufactures which were exported. The island of St. Thomas, in the West Indies, was a great distributing centre, 25 years ago. From it the whole of the West Indies was supplied. To-day St. Thomas was little else than a warehouse for trading steamers—its function had gone. The immediate cause of the transition was to be found in the fact that the merchants of the island found it to their advantage to deal directly with the old country, which supplied them with their imports. Now, as regards our relative position to China—which compelled all vessels to pass close to our own doors—Hongkong was in a much better position than St. Thomas. He had already spoken of St. Thomas for a moment, but he thought it well to say a few words about it, as it was a case in which what analogous case he had happened to see, which showed how a large export trade might, in a few years be affected—though Hongkong was, from a geographical point of view, more favourably situated than St. Thomas. At the present time Hongkong was suffering from depression attributable to three causes, namely:

(a) The restrictive legislation against the Chinese in Australia and America.

(b) The increased growth of the poppy in China, which resulted in a disinclination of the foreign (Indian) opium trade.

(c) The decline in the export trade of Chinese tea, owing to the competition caused by the Ceylon and Indian teas.

It was also suffering from over-speculation, nevertheless he was pleased to see, despite the grave causes of depression, that trade in other goods had not fallen off; the tonnage of the port, for instance, had increased. The fall effect of the three above named causes, which he had just mentioned, was not yet estimable, so it was quite possible that the Colony's capacity to pay the amount now demanded might be seriously affected in the course of a few years and become a great hardship to the colony, and unless the circumstances materially altered it would be very difficult to pay it. However, he mentioned the matter as a question of the future, and he did not believe that, would regard it as other than a just and fair demand. On the other hand he felt sure that had it not been for the unfortunate mistake of the War Office reference to the unofficial members—who would not have opposed the vote. He gathered that the opposition depended almost entirely on the unfortunate representations made when the vote was first urged on their attention. He had no doubt but that the increase of troops was put in the foreground, and therefore it was the more unfortunate that the promise was not fulfilled. But if the demand was a just one—and he believed it was—then it appeared to him that the more failure of the promise had nothing to do with it; there was, doubtless, ground for complaint, but no ground for refusing to vote the money which hon. members would undoubtedly have voted but for the mistake referred to. To put the matter in an abstract form, if A is receiving the benefit from B for which a certain sum is fairly due, it is morally bound to pay that debt, because if A has not paid it, he is equally bound to pay it. He said he was equally bound to pay it, and he would be bound to pay it even if the promise was made by B, issued of by

his agent. Recollect that in this case the beneficiary by our contribution is not the British Government, but the British tax-payer, and because a promise has been held out—it is not exactly a promise but an inducement—with regard to this vote by the British Government, and that inducement proves fallacious, we are none the less morally bound to the British tax-payer to pay what is justly due. That is the view I have taken of it very strongly, and these being my reasons I can conscientiously say I can recommend this vote without any reluctance. He had sketched doubts of the future, but at the present time he could not help thinking that the Colony ought to pay the amount. He would be glad to hear what others might have to say on the subject.

Mr. Ryrie said, he had fully considered the question together with his unofficial colleagues. But they could not satisfy themselves of the necessity for payment of the extra contribution, for the justice of the demand. It was all very well to say this Colony should pay the money, but in face of the fact that all public works were stopped by telegram and the colony was thus hampered in its progress he could not see the justice of the demand. It appeared that the Colony could only pay it by having something else cut off. If the Government had kept faith with the colony there would have been at least a *quid pro quo* for it in the shape of security, but now it was asked to pay without getting any return. At the present time the Garrison was not strong and was materially assisted, in the hour of danger, by the Navy. It would be in a very bad way indeed. No doubt the Navy would assist in time of need, but it would be unreasonable to expect that all the fleet would be at our "beck and call"—we should have the vessels that could be spared, and no more. He might add that since the last meeting of Council he and his unofficial colleagues had been in receipt of correspondence from Singapore and Ceylon, and it was a great pleasure to him to note that there the unofficial members had taken the part of the ratemakers. They were not the servants of the Colonial Office, but of the public, who paid them, and worked in the public interest. The ratemakers of this colony would, he hoped, be backed by Singapore and Ceylon, and they intended to oppose the unwarrantable demands of the Home Government to the last. If the vote were passed, as proposed, a public meeting would be called and a petition to Her Majesty be drawn up and forwarded at once. At that public meeting there would be a discussion of the opinion of the Government in the matter, and he would be glad to hear the voice of the people would be heard "with an unobscured sound." It was a question which should be dealt with with great care, and if the Council voted this sum the Imperial Government should perform its part of the bargain.

Mr. T. H. Whitehead said:—I have endeavoured to give due consideration to the remarks and the appeal made at the last meeting of Council to honourable members and to request them to place your Excellency in the position of being obliged to do your duty in face of their views, but I feel compelled to emphatically oppose this heavy money vote on its merits. Whether £20,000 per annum would be a fair reasonable first military contribution from this Colony is not the question before the Council. The increased military contribution was demanded from the Colony in March 1890, and still is demanded on the ground that in the opinion of the Imperial Government circumstances render it necessary to increase the garrison in Hongkong. Lord Knutsford's despatch of 20th January, 1890, intimates most unmistakably that the proposed increase to the garrison was the justification of the demand for increasing the contribution from £20,000 to £40,000. (Mr. Whitehead then read para. 5, 6, 7, and last sentence of 8 of the C. O. despatch, also report on Hongkong Blue Book for 1889.) The increased contribution was voted by this Council last year, entirely on the ground that the proposed increase was justified by the increased garrison, and the vote was associated with and accompanied by certain resolutions, also unanimously agreed to by this Council, that as soon as the Imperial Government perform their portion of the agreement this Colony will readily execute its part. (Mr. Whitehead read resolutions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the despatch of 21st April, 1890, from Mr. Fleming to Lord Knutsford.) The resolutions state that the increased vote should only be available in proportion to the increase in the garrison expenditure, and was at once in the garrison cordially supported by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Colonial Office despatch of 21st May last to the War Office says:—(The hon. member read para. 1, 2, and 3 of the despatch, which have already been published.) The War Office has not sent any extra troops; the average number of all ranks here was actually less in 1890 than in 1889; the Government has incurred the additional expenditure on the garrison since the 1st January, 1890, of £10,000, and has not asked for a concession in our behalf. Mr. Fleming persist in demanding from this Colony a military contribution just double the amount formerly paid without giving us any *quid pro quo* as agreed upon. In acknowledging the Colonial Office despatch of the 21st May, the War Office authorities shift their original grounds, and endeavour to justify the continuance of their increased demand for further reasons and on other grounds, which have not been submitted to this Council, and which we have not had an opportunity of discussing. The Colonial despatch to the Colonial Office of the 21st May, dated 21st September last, for which we are most grateful, states our case very fairly and bears most comprehensively on the whole subject of the increased military contribution. This despatch has been acknowledged but it has not been answered. The Colonial Office has evidently to support our just cause. Lord Knutsford appears to have forgotten and have abandoned what his lordship termed "our reasonable claim," and requests this Government to vote the increased contribution, well knowing that no addition has been made to, and that no increased expenditure has been incurred on the garrison. Possibly the Government could not carry this vote if all the official members voted in accordance with their convictions on this subject; the secret helps, however, kept their views very secret. He proposed to move that the Council should vote on the same question, but that whatever their opinions may be they are allowed no choice in the matter, and will be required to vote as the Government directs them. The officials, however, are not prohibited from stating their views and opinions. If the Government press this question and take the extra £20,000 from the Colony in the name of the more numerous soldiers, he thinks the position of matters may become so serious that the members may be obliged to take their position on the matter, and property of their continued presence here where their types, their opinions, and their resolutions are so completely disregarded and over-ruled, and to compel them to submit to Her Majesty, the Queen by petition a statement of their reasons for contemplating such a course of action. It would be a great pity if the only effective protest he made to the arbitrary policy of the Home Government and its decision to impose a fresh

burden of £20,000 a year on the rate-payers of the Colony without any *quid pro quo*, and without giving them or their representatives an opportunity of discussing the new position and the new grounds taken up by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State. The proceedings of the Imperial Government on this question are not characterized by reason and equity; they are arbitrary, and unjust; in my opinion they are calculated to imperil good Government and must tend to weaken and impair the loyalty and allegiance of the good-will towards the Mother Country of one of the most loyal of H.M.'s Colonies. There is a distinct breach of faith on the part of the War Office, and a glaring violation by the Imperial Government of a solemn agreement of its own framing, and which was deliberately entered into. It might be well for Her Majesty's advisers to bear in mind that, as stated in the Singapore Council the other day, loyalty is a hardy plant, that it requires a fair field and no favour, and that under injustice and under unfairness it will wither. Against such unjust and unbecoming a serious injustice to the rate-payers of Hongkong I most earnestly and most emphatically protest.

THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

His Excellency said, he had listened attentively to all that had been said. The point made by Mr. Ryrie relative to the stoppage of the public works was the only important point raised in the discussion. But it was by no means sure yet, that the telegram referred to was answering to the stoppage of works with the special object of thereby enabling the Colony to pay the military contribution. If that was so, then it would be a very serious matter and it would show that it would have been better not to proceed with those works until some aid had been obtained by means of a loan on the Tytan Waterworks or other productive works. He had also devoted attention to the numerous heresies in which Mr. Whitehead had indulged, and he was sorry to hear that he had been misled by him. He thought the main point Mr. Whitehead said that hon. members had had no opportunity of discussing the vote in the manner they, the unofficials, could have desired. All he could say was that full opportunity had been given for discussion; and to say that no opportunity had been given in the way indicated by the hon. member as desirable was simply to state what was not true. Apart from the unfortunate C. O. and W. O. despatches, he considered the demand just, and could therefore recommend it, and did recommend it. The feeling which had arisen in connection with the vote—on the special grounds taken up for objections to it—were not altogether unnatural feelings, but the promise to increase the Garrison was distinct from the principle of the vote altogether. The question must now be put to the vote.

Mr. Ryrie's amendment "that the question of the vote be postponed until further information arrives from England" was put to the vote, and lost by one vote—the whole of the unofficial members being in favour of, and the official members against it. The Governor cast his vote as usual on such occasions.

The question of the "extra military contribution" was then put to the vote and resulted as follows:—

AYES.

H. E. the Governor.
Mr. W. M. Deane.
Mr. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart.
Mr. N. G. Mitchell-Innes.
Mr. S. Brown.
Mr. W. M. Goodman.

NOES.

Mr. F. Ryrie.
Mr. T. H. Whitehead.
Mr. C. P. Chater.
Dr. Ho Kai.
Mr. J. J. Kewick.

The Government thus "swamped" the unofficials by the usual *one official* vote. During the voting there was a good deal of "uttering" and "under-breath" remarks, and it was preceded by Mr. Ryrie the senior unofficial member getting out of his seat and speaking to Mr. Whitehead. Mr. Ryrie looked like gold out to save himself and colleagues the annoyance of going through what they knew would be a degrading farce.

THE PROPOSED INCREASE OF SALARIES.

Mr. Whitehead asked:—"Are the Government officials now drawing the enhanced rates of pay recommended by the special or select Committee of this Council; or are they still drawing the old rates of pay and allowances pending the Secretary of State's approval?"

The Acting Colonial Secretary:—They are drawing the old rates of pay.

A HIT AT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

Mr. Whitehead then gave notice of the following motion:—"That in consequence of the enhanced Military Contribution still demanded by the Imperial Government this Colony is not in a position to pay the increased salaries recently recommended by the unofficial members, and that the Secretary of State be requested by telegram to withhold his sanction."

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

Mr. P. Ryrie—I give notice of a protest against the military contribution.

The following despatch relating to military contribution was laid on the table:—

DOWLING STREET,
19th February, 1891.

SIR,—I am informed by the Secretary of State for War that the full military contribution for the year 1890 has not yet been paid, and I have accordingly telegraphed to you this day requesting that the balance of the amount should be paid to the Military Authorities as soon as possible.

I observe that the increased contribution has now been voted for this year, and you will of course see that the proper amount is paid at the end of the current year.

I shall address you separately in regard to the protest on this subject of the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, enclosed in Mr. Fleming's despatch No. 449 of 22nd December last.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,

KNUTSFORD.
Governor Sir G. W. De Vaux, K.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

THE PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS ORDINANCE.

A Bill entitled an "Ordinance to amend the Printers and Publishers Ordinance of 1889" was introduced by the Attorney-General, and passed the first reading.

THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE, 1891.

His Excellency:—The next item on the orders of the day is the Committee on the Bill entitled the Gambling Ordinance, 1891. Now, I may state at once that after full consideration of the matter I have determined to proceed with the Ordinance. I have the distinct opinion that neither this Ordinance nor any other will have any great effect upon gambling in this Colony, the instinct for which is so ingrained in the constitution of the people, and if it were a question of beginning legislation I should decline to do anything in the absence of special instructions. But it is not a question of beginning legislation; we have at present on the Statute Book a law which, I may say, now become almost entirely useless. Whether the decisions *arise* correct or not, I do not know, but the result is that by these decisions the law has been rendered almost utterly useless. Now, it can be said of the Bill before the Council that it affords a better chance of doing some good than the present law, and I believe any other that could be presented to

devised that would be permitted by the Home Government. For this reason, as the principle of the Bill has received a considerable amount of support, not only in the Council but in the Colony generally, I intend to proceed with it, and may make them better. There is only one point as to which I was for long time doubtful, and that is the question of corruption. Of course the stricter you make the law, the greater the inducement to corruption, but on the other hand it has been pointed out to me that gambling takes place, and we are always likely to know a short time after it has begun. The only reason we cannot touch it now is that the law in its present position does not enable us to do so. This law will enable us to touch this gambling at once, and though there may be greater inducement to corruption, if the places are not touched we shall know that corruption actually exists and that it is not altogether impossible to be certain about it. It has been suggested, I fear not altogether without ground, that there is a large amount of corruption, yet we are not certain about it. This law will enable us to be certain. If the gambling in particular places is not put down we shall know that the corruption exists, and either it will have to be corrected or the law will have to be given up altogether. It may be that the inducements to gambling are so great that no salaries we are able to pay will be sufficient to procure men who will altogether administer the law against gamblers with strict impartiality. Of course I know there are, in the present police force men who, although they are in the present position, would firmly resist offers to be bribed to give assistance to gamblers, and that they have resisted such offers, but taking an ordinary view it is quite possible whether men at such salaries as can be given in the Police Force within the means of the colony would be able—the average man—to resist the large sums which might pay gamblers to offer. However, this Bill will tell us where gambling exists and if it is not put an end to by this law, we shall at least know where we are; we do not know that at present. For these reasons I propose on the next occasion to go on with this Bill. I do not do so to-day, because at the last meeting I felt in doubt whether the Government would go on with it, and I do not suppose hon. members have read the details with the care necessary for the suggestion of amendments. I may say once that the clause about the responsibility of owners certainly requires amendment. At all events owners should not be made responsible until they have received due notice that their houses are being used as gambling establishments and take no steps to prevent it. It is not intended to press that part of the Bill in its present shape.

ADJOURNMENT.
The Council adjourned till Wednesday next.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on the 19th inst., after the Council meeting, the Acting Colonial Secretary presiding.

THE SALARIES OF THE VICTORIA COLLEGE MASTERS.

The Chairman—Hon. members will remember that a minute recommending a vote for additional pay to the masters of Victoria College was adopted from the previous meeting, in order that further inquiry might be made. A doubt arose as to whether due consideration had been given to the matter of quarters. It has been found that consideration has been given to that point, and therefore there is no undue increase in the amounts recommended by the Secretary of State. The history of this vote is that the £1,850 for the increase of salaries of the masters of Victoria College arose from a petition sent home by the masters last year, asking that they should be allowed the same rate as the other members of the Civil Service, and the Secretary of State has been pleased to approve of the petition with the small modification that the whole increase is not to be given until the maximum is reached. I have therefore to move that this sum of £1,850 be voted.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.
Mr. P. Ryrie:—If we are to have an increased military contribution we cannot go on increasing salaries too. I will vote against all increases.

The vote being put a division took place.
The Registrar-General asked if he was compelled to attend or if he could remain silent.

The Chairman said that as the hon. member was at the table he thought he must request him to vote.

The votes were recorded as follows:—

For.
The Surveyor-General.
The Registrar-General.
The Colonial Treasurer.
The Colonial Secretary.
Mr. C. P. Chater.

Against.
Mr. T. H. Whitehead.
Mr. Ho Kai.
Mr. J. J. Kewick.
Mr. F. Ryrie.

The vote was therefore passed.

VOTES PASSED.
The sums of £650 for the salaries of two student interpreters; \$3,800 as a supplementary vote for Peak Water supply; \$600 as compensation allowance for the widow of the late Inspector Swanton of the H. K. Police Force; \$320 for the Postmaster-General's quarters for 1890; \$556.84, equivalent to £285, for defraying the cost of analysing the observations and readings of the tides at Hongkong for 1887-88 and making the results available for the use of the undermentioned works, or completed before the 31st last December, and for which no provision has been made in this year's estimates, namely, re-drainage of Government Civil Hospital \$110.82, and construction of a storm water drain in Jubilee Street \$2,457.60.

The unexpended balance from 1889 was \$19,253.35; \$1,500 to provide permanent accommodation for the new hospital ship *Hygieia*; also \$2,500, re-vote for the last two instalments to be paid for the building of the ship.

The bill of the Supreme Court for 21st May to 22nd September, 1890, was voted to the first and second bill in proportions recommended by the Registrar, the first and second bill having done the work from the time the third bill had been introduced, and was appointed, \$3,454.41, unexpended balance in 1890, on account of the Police Force, and \$388.55 as compensation allowance to the widows of children of the late H. L. Mathers, second light was kept.

The passing of these votes brought the proceedings to a close.

AN IMPORTANT SIAMESE RAILWAY CONCESSION.

A PROPOSED RAILWAY ACROSS THE MALAY PENINSULA.

An important railway concession, to which we alluded in a previous issue of the 7th inst., was, says the *Siam*, signed on 17th inst. by His Majesty the King. It is for a railway across the Malay Peninsula from Singapore to the town of Kato, Siam, and from thence to Kulem, a distance of 100 miles, and most part of the province of Kato. The concession is to be made by the King of Siam, together with

the Sultan of Kedah and the Governor of Singora, and the concessionaire is Mr. Charles Dunlop, of Singapore, who has been in Siam for some time negotiating the terms with H. R. H. Prince Narit, Minister of Public Works, and the Railway Department.

His Majesty when in Kedah in June last year was pleased to give his approval to the scheme, and is fully alive to the importance of the railway in question. Singora is a large centre of trade on the eastern side of the Peninsula and from a far distant period has sent produce to Bangkok, the Straits, and more especially to China. The father of the present Governor was himself the owner of square-rigged ships trading between Singora and China, and did a large trade. The distance between Kota Bharu and the town of Singora is about seventy miles, and an important traffic in goods is carried on between the two places. There is a fine broad road all the way over, and when His Majesty was down there last year he traversed the whole length in his carriage. The distance to Kulem from Kota Bharu, the capital of Kedah is over sixty miles and the line opens up on this section some of the best planting and mining land of the province. We understand that Singora, which is at the entrance of the large inland sea, has a fairly good port, and the island of Pulo Tikus gives it some protection during the north-east monsoon.

The importance of a trans-peninsular line is one which largely concerns the Kingdom of Siam, and is also one of universal interest, as the delivery of mails from Europe to Bangkok, Saigon, China, and Manila should be accelerated by three or four days when this railway is completed. Another important point is that the projected line will pass close to the coal fields of Pulo Tikus, we hear, are likely to be developed very shortly, but our contemporary hopes to give further information with regard to this important railway and the country it is likely to open up for mining and agricultural enterprise.

THE BRITISH SUPREME COURT IN CHINA.

No one has a good word to say for the new arrangement by which the British Foreign Office in Shanghai has taken the functions of the Consular-General in Shanghai in those of the Judge of the Supreme Court. View it on whatever side we may it is a botched and bungled job. Great principles and far-reaching national interests have been sacrificed to a paltry economy in this case, and it is hard to believe that the matter could ever have been fairly considered by the heads of the Foreign Office. Twenty-six years ago, under the wise government of Lord Palmerston, who of all British statesmen of his own days, or since, had the most accurate appreciation of the country's interests in China, a British Supreme Court was established in Shanghai with a competent and well-paid judicial staff. The extraordinary variety of cases which were called Consular Courts had been for years crying aloud for remedy, and the Supreme Court for China and Japan was the answer to the appeal. The success of the movement has been most conspicuous; the administration of justice where British subjects were concerned has been without a flaw, and the Judges have earned for themselves the same high and immaculate character which has thrown a halo over the Bench in England. Since the British interests in China the consular courts have been a source of trouble and of pure justice has been promoted, and the proceedings of the consular courts of all the Treaty powers have been consciously or unconsciously elevated, and to a considerable extent influenced by, if not actually modelled on, the great example of the British Supreme Court. In this matter Germany in particular has played a very worthy part, her Consular representatives being mostly men who have at least enjoyed a thorough legal education. As for the Chinese, the purity of the Consular Courts has been the means of revealing to them for the first time the idea of a fair trial, and the small number of political considerations, from the bias of official interests, from corruption, and the pressure of public opinion. The judgment given by Sir Richard Rennie in one case alone was received, as we have good reason to know, by the higher Chinese Officials with sheer astonishment. We refer to the collision case between a P. and O. steamer and a Chinese man-of-war, in which the latter was sunk in the estuary of the Yangtze. That a British Court should deliberately condemn a powerful Chinese Corporation to pay heavy damages to a small Chinese man-of-war, and to the Chinese, and the proof of it, the character of British justice and the credit of British name immeasurably in their estimation. From the point of view of international goodwill and mutual conciliation, therefore, the Supreme Court has without doubt rendered most valuable service. In supplying the immediate requirements of British subjects no less than in raising their general reputation, and promoting the permanent interests of the country, the Supreme Court has been a national boon, and it can hardly be doubted that the miscellaneous body of foreigners has gained something by the dignity reflected from the judicial establishment of Great Britain.

A wise and upright Judge and one learned in the law may be said to be the supreme attainment of civilization, and to produce him and sustain him some very special conditions have to be observed. Unlike the poet, the Judge has to be made, by long and severe training, and he must be continually supported by the evenest of professional tradition, the evenest of the opinion of the peers as well as of the intelligent public. Without these aids and *divine* aid, he could maintain his character, and even then his duties make a demand on mental and moral resources such as probably no other calling in life does. To be a Judge is no holiday amusement. Those who have tried it—they are not too many—know the extreme difficulty of being truthful, while to be just seems so hopelessly beyond the range of common endeavor that not one in ten thousand seriously attempts to reach such considerations. It might be doubted that the most conscientious and the most experienced, honest, and just man could be formed of the moral and intellectual tenacity imposed on a man whose business in life is to be just, but to reduce justice to a concrete reality, and that not once and again, but continuously throughout his whole career. Undoubtedly in this as in all other occupations practice makes perfect, good mental habits like hard acquired strength in going and judging. It might be doubted that the most conscientious and the most experienced, honest, and just man could be formed of the moral and intellectual tenacity imposed on a man whose business in life is to be just, but to reduce justice to a concrete reality, and that not once and again, but continuously throughout his whole career. Undoubtedly in this as in all other occupations practice makes perfect, good mental habits like hard acquired strength in going and judging. 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MARRIAGES.

At the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, on the 16th inst. by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., Thomas Wm. BOWEN to JESSIE HOLMES.

On March 21st, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Right Rev. J. S. Burdon, D.D., Bishop of Victoria, Captain F. D. GORDARD, of Douglas Steamship Co.'s steamer *Namoa*, to MARIAN ALICE, only daughter of Alfred Jordan, Esq., Worcester.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1891.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

JOHN STUART MILL, who knew the world well, is responsible for the saying that the man who only knows his own side of a case, knows little of that. That appeared to be the position occupied by Governor Sir Vaux in the debate in the Legislative Council last Thursday on the vexed question of the Military Contribution. And yet the actual point in dispute between his Excellency and the unofficial members was simplicity itself. A demand was made by the Secretary of State over a year ago that an additional sum of £20,000 should be added to this colony's annual military contribution, on the ground that political necessities required the strengthening of our garrison by a new regiment, etc., being added to our present forces. It was on the distinct and definite promise that these additional troops would be forthcoming, and for no other reason, and on no other grounds, that the extra vote of £20,000 was agreed to. The new regiment has not arrived, nor has any satisfactory explanation been given for its non-arrival, and therefore the unofficial members very properly have declined to tamely acquiesce in the tax-payers of Hongkong being deliberately victimised by the unscrupulous rapacity of the War Office, the lamentable supineness of Lord Knutsford, and the much-to-be-deplored obliquity of his moral vision which has placed Governor Sir Vaux in his present untenable position. This is the whole matter in a nutshell; the question of the justice or injustice of an increased military contribution was not properly before the Council for discussion; all that ought to have been considered was whether or not a binding contract had been entered into between the Imperial Government and this colony and if the conditions of the same had been strictly carried out by both contracting parties. It is admitted that the Imperial authorities have utterly failed to cement their promise by fulfillment; and consequently it must be apparent to every right-thinking man that the original arrangement both in law and justice falls through and becomes null and void. But this is not Governor Sir Vaux's idea of fair-play and the sacred character of official promises; he raised an entirely false issue which it was most irregular to discuss, and by the numerical force of the official phalanx arbitrarily and without a shadow of right or justice on his side forces the vote through the Council, extorting from the tax-payers the large sum of £20,000 for which they get absolutely no return. Nothing more shameful has ever blackened the official records of this colony, and that is the universal opinion of all classes in Hongkong; the select army of toadies and crawlers to an effete officialdom alone excepted.

But even on his own conveniently appropriated quicksand base of contention, the Governor's arguments are either those of a school-boy or of an official bigot. We regret we can find no reasonable ground whatever to qualify this allegation. Perhaps his Excellency means well for those whose interests he is paid so handsomely to protect and conserve. Perhaps he doesn't! Who shall say? We can only judge of him by his actions, and that we shall do fearlessly and impartially, on this and on every other subject affecting the rights of our fellow citizens and the future welfare of Hongkong. His Excellency's claims to consideration in this colony are clearly set out in the second sentence of his speech last Thursday. He practically said that the Imperial Government had made a mistake in giving any reasons for the additional demand on our already notoriously depleted exchequer in reference to this military bugbear. If this is Sir William Sir Vaux's conception of his duty to a free British colony, the rejoicing that he is unable to serve the remainder of his term will be universal—always excepting that class who languish after official patronage. The Governor of Hongkong in these days of advancing freedom must be the friend and supporter of the colony's rights—not the mere creature of a crowd of political schemers in Downing Street. We have said that the only question really at issue between the Government and the unofficial members was a simple matter of contract, and no argument can possibly shake our contention; but his Excellency tried his no doubt experienced hand at "ringing the changes," and he made a feeble show. He contended that the question in dispute depended on two answers—namely:—Having regard to the relative interest of the Mother Country and the Colony in the object of the expenditure, is the proportion we are now asked to pay, even with the additional contribution, greater than we ought to pay for this Imperial protection?—and, is the amount we are asked to pay greater than we are able to pay without serious injury to our prosperity? Both these questions were quite outside the real matter at issue, but so far as we are concerned we have no hesitation in answering the first in the affirmative and the second in the negative. In 1863 it is just possible that Hongkong may have required military protection for local interests, to-day to talk of any such

necessity against Chinese rioters is absolute nonsense, as our powerful Police force is quite sufficient to ensure good order throughout the Island. Any other defence that is against Foreign Powers with whom it may suit Great Britain to go to war for Imperial reasons, has nothing to do with Hongkong. We have no voice in deciding any such war, we gain nothing by whatever success may be gained, we get no additional protection but have to run risks which are not of our making, and yet we are coolly asked to pay for soldiers whose sole mission here is to defend what are called Imperial rights. And nobody in his right mind would for a moment attempt to argue that a garrison numbering about twenty-six hundred troops, including the promised reinforcements which have not come, could for a single day defend Hongkong against the fleets of either France or Russia, or both combined—our defence is in the Royal Navy and in that alone. In our opinion Hongkong should not be called upon to pay a single cent for military protection which her own local interests do not require; and further, we consider that the financial position of the colony is such that even were we willing, the payment of this extra imposition would seriously handicap our resources. Governor Sir Vaux admits that it might become a hardship by and by; we say it is a grievous hardship now, looking at the general stagnation of trade and the wholesale poverty which prevails everywhere, and we challenge him to deny it. His Excellency likewise admits that when this increased vote was originally granted the increase of troops was put in the foreground, and that it was on the strength of the promised increase the additional amount was passed; and yet he said, and we can only assume that he meant what he said, that the failure of the promise had nothing to do with the question whether the extra £20,000 should be voted or not. Comment on such an argument as this would be insulting the intelligence of our readers, and when his Excellency vehemently expresses the opinion that we are morally bound to pay British tax-payers for the military protection of what are purely British interests, we feel inclined to go outside and weep copiously.

The observations of the Hon. P. RYRIE were, as usual in all affairs concerning the welfare of Hongkong and its social and commercial prosperity, to the point and admirable in every way. His reference to the important fact that all public works in progress had been suspended by special telegraphic despatch from the Secretary of State, left the Governor completely stranded high and dry on his absurd argument as to the colony's imaginary elastic resources. And the venerable unofficial member struck the right key of public opinion when he stated that it was intended to call a meeting of the inhabitants of the colony so that they should have some say in a matter which concerned them so closely. The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD has never spoken so well as on this occasion; his remarks were moderate and in good taste, and his arguments close, incisive and practical. His quotations from official despatches showed the deliberate fraud the Imperial Government had committed Governor Sir Vaux to perpetrate on the tax-payers who pay him £32,000 per annum for protecting their interests, and although the truth of these assertions could not be disputed or called in question, his Excellency had the meanness to insinuate that the hon. member was not speaking the truth and that he had indulged in "heroics." Even Sir GEORGE BOWEN, and that is as near purgatory as we can go, never played the game lower down.

We have hitherto given Governor Sir Vaux credit for being a painstaking and well-meaning man, enlightened and liberal (almost radical) in his views, thoroughly independent and quite beyond the pale of outside influences. His Excellency's course of action in this Military Contribution scandal has shattered our idol, and strongly suggests that various causes, such as ambition, temper, self-interest, dogmatism, and so forth, frequently seduce the most sane and well-meaning of men to speak like the mad fool. Our Governor has always been addicted to the *causette loggia*, but that is an idiosyncrasy that could easily be condoned were we not constantly being brought face to face with the ugly suggestion that Hongkong has for a ruler a foolish man who doesn't even know his own foolish business. His method of drawing utterly irrational and absurd conclusions from wholly imaginary facts, as in the matter now under discussion, is a kind of logic that has yet to be recognised amongst men of intelligence. But nevertheless we recognise that his Excellency is a man of intelligence, and must admit that his official career has hitherto been generally successful without having been brilliant; he has, in fact, exemplified the proverb that the average man is made up of intelligence and prejudice—but mostly of prejudice. On any other conclusion we quite fail to fathom the policy so vigorously pursued by Sir WILLIAM Sir Vaux against what he must have known was the united strength of public opinion in the colony; and regret to have to remind his Excellency that the government of British colonies now-a-days by persons of mediocre abilities or doubtful motives, even although acting for the Colonial Office, is inconsistent with the progressive aspirations of the advanced age in which we live. And although the spirit of justice and fair-play and common honesty in our island home may not be strong enough to prevent those struggling for the right from occasionally getting "laid off" by bludgeoned hard and there are several back-sliders in high places, there is a strong feeling amongst the masses that a flagrant injustice is being done, and the *vox populi* will surely be heard. And who can blame them? Notwithstanding the Governor's wholly

unfounded statements as to our satisfactory financial position, etc., etc., any increased taxation on an already over-taxed community cannot be so disguised as to keep its existence unseen; the hard-working public may not see the tax collector, but their sadly diminished incomes will feel the effect of the extra demands which this increased military "squeeze" is certain to necessitate.

The additional vote of £20,000 has been forced through the Council solely by the official element, who went like lambs to the slaughter against the loudly expressed desire of the whole of Hongkong. And yet it is only a few months since the Hongkong rate-payers, by their representatives in Council, recommended a material increase of salary to these servants of—well, we don't know who they are supposed to serve, but we are taxed to pay their salaries. The passing of this vote renders the proposed liberal treatment of our official employees an impossibility, and Mr. T. H. WHITEHEAD has therefore given notice that at to-day's meeting of Council he will propose—

"That in consequence of the enhanced Military Contribution still demanded by the Imperial Government this Colony is not in a position to pay the increased salaries recently recommended by the unofficial members, and that the Secretary of State be requested to withhold his sanction."

This is taking the bull by the horns with a vengeance, but the member for the Chamber of Commerce is more than justified in his action. When this recommendation was made to the Secretary of State the colony was fairly prosperous, and the promised new regiment would have materially aided in keeping local business going. Things have changed; the fifteen hundred additional men have not come here as consumers and factors in our daily life, and trade is stagnant and poverty wide-spread. The Imperial Government has deliberately broken its promise, a vote of £20,000 for which no *quid pro quo* has been received has been passed in the Legislative Council by a purely official vote, and therefore the officials who are responsible for this cannot wonder if the colony objects to a fairness and liberality that are entirely one-sided.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE *Chinese Times* announces that Senator H. W. Blair, of Manchester, N.H., has been appointed U. S. Minister to China.

For returning from banishment Chan Ayau, 41, a bricklayer, was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour by Mr. Wise yesterday morning.

TELEGRAPHIC news has been received from Korea of the death, at Seoul, on the 8th inst., of Major Kwakita Yoshikazu, the newly-appointed Japanese Minister to Korea.

The general health of the population of Macao has been greatly improved since the advent of the long looked for and much needed rains that have fallen there during the past week.

At a meeting of Englishmen held at the Shanghai Club on the 19th inst. it was proposed "That the English residents of Shanghai give a ball at the Shanghai Club on St. George's Day, the 23rd proximo." The resolution was carried *unanimously*.

THE *Hu-pao* announces that the Tribute Rice (Tait) Ching, arrived at Shanghai some days ago, was the same as the Tribute Rice of the Coast Defence had offered the usual sacrifice to the God of the Sea, and the first junk with tribute rice have started for the north.

We learn that the plans of the Trans-Siberian railway are now about completed. It was the original intention of the authorities to have spread the task of construction of the line over a period of ten years; but it has now been decided to finish it within three years.

We note that preparations are being made at the Harbour Office for the holding of a public signal similar to those exhibited at the Observatory. The signals, we understand, will be hoisted on the Harbour Office flagstaff simultaneously with, or a couple of minutes after, warnings given at Kowloon Point.

It is worthy of comment that at the public meeting held in Singapore on protest against the outrageous Military Contribution, the whole of the speakers were enthusiastically applauded, excepting one. That one was Mr. H. M. Becker, of Penang, who, whose remarks appear to have been received in solemn silence. The Directors of the Penang Company ought to be proud of their protégé.

Owing to the unsettled state of affairs at Chinkiang, and as a means of forwarding the trade, the British Consul at that port, Lord, thought it advisable to send for a man-of-war, and in consequence, H.M.S. *Zinnel* left Shanghai on the 20th inst. for the protection of the foreigners at Chinkiang. A Shanghai paper reports that the *Kiangyang* arrived there on the 20th inst. having left Chinkiang on Thursday afternoon, when all appeared to be quiet there, and the people on board had not heard of anything likely to cause a disturbance.

Thus the *Hu-pao*:—"Two jads, from two different villages in Kwangtung quarrelled at a market place and had a fight. Several adults joined in, and a general scrimmage ensued. The headmen of the two villages held a council of war and agreed to settle the dispute by force of arms. On the appointed day the rival villagers met, drawn up in battle array headed by huge banners. Swords, spears, and firearms were freely handled. Both sides fought with desperate fury and only parted when night closed in. There were many killed and wounded on both sides, and quiet has not yet been restored. The magistrate has sent down a guard to keep order." And let us hope to bury the dead.

CUSTOMS officers searching for opium on board the *Faris* on her trip up to Canton on the 23rd inst. upset the novel device of a Chinaman. The passenger in question was noticed sitting next to a port-hole in the tween deck; his hand holding the end of a piece of rope which was passed through the port. The officer seized the rope and made the Chinaman assist him in pulling to the surface, what turned out to be a tin of opium, equal to almost half a chest, which had been placed in a bag and dropped overboard, just as the *Faris* was about to start. The Chinaman was taken to the Customs and made his confession. We understand the opium was confiscated and the Chinaman allowed to proceed on his way.

A C. LINDON occurred at the Woosung bar soon after 3 p.m. on the 19th inst. between the *Koh-Maru*, inward bound from Japan, and the O. S. S. steamer *Telmachus* going out. The *Koh-Maru* was damaged about the bows, the fluke of her anchor going through her plates just below the port hawse pipe, and she also lost her anchor and some of her rail. The *Telmachus* was more seriously damaged and put back to Shanghai for repairs. The case will be submitted to arbitration before Captain J. P. Roberts and Captain Stewart of the P. & O. Co.'s steamer *Oriental*.

We know now that we have not to blame Mr. Howard for the arrangements which prevent Mr. Alabaster's coming to Shanghai as Consul-General, says the *N. C. Daily News*, but he is to be thanked for suggesting the elevation of the Consul at Canton, and the conversion of Mr. Alabaster into Consul-General there. We heartily congratulate Mr. Alabaster on the promotion, and Canton on a change that ensures Mr. Alabaster's remaining there for the present, but there is universal regret in Shanghai that he is not to succeed Mr. Hughes. We could only hear that Mr. Alabaster were appointed British Minister, we should all rejoice; but the Foreign Office does not want another Sir Harry Parkes; more pliable representatives suit it better.

This is how the *Hu-pao* lets its imagination run riot over the following incident. A mill outside the Wuchang city, was the scene of a terrible fight between two water buffaloes. The cause of disagreement is not known, but their fury was something awful. Several hundred bulls went down before their impetuous and blind charges, and as they rolled about with horns interlocked they levelled everything round about them for the space of many yards. For hours they kept up their tremendous struggle until some one suggested a burning torch as a means of separating them. A quantity of torches were lighted and thrust between their noses. The effect was magical, and they soon separated. It has since been reported that—usual, there was a lady buffalo at the bottom of the trouble.

THE members of Madame Patey's Concert Party met with another enthusiastic reception at the City Hall last night (2nd inst.), and we regret that lack of space prevents us from giving a detailed criticism of the entertainment. Needless to say, the artists who form this select company have firmly established themselves in the highest favor of those members of the community who are music to their ears. If we were to select any item from the programme for even passing notice, they would be—*There is a green hill far away*, by Madame Patey; *Ave Maria*, by Miss Rossow, and the flute solo of Mr. Lemmon. The whole programme was carried through in the usual brilliant style of the company, with the exception of the final quartette which, to put it mildly, was sadly bungled owing to Mr. Robinson having a deceptive knowledge of the range of his own voice. We are glad to see that Madame Patey intends to produce Handel's "Messiah" on Friday next, with the promised assistance of several amateurs.

THE *Japan Herald* contains the following on Tsujimura Kuratoro, alias Watanabe Kai, who was recently arrested for having escaped from prison while undergoing a life sentence. He was an employee of the Goto branch of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha at Nagasaki, and embezzled about yen 80 as a result of a profligate life. However, he was immediately detected, and sentenced to imprisonment for life in accordance with the old law. He managed to effect his escape in July, 1884, from the bonnie sections at Mike, and for a time by robbing and stealing he gained a living. After some time he changed his name, and proceeding to Tokyo entered the Tokio Law School, from which he graduated, and passed his examination for an appointment to a judgeship, being previously sent to a post on probation. In 1887 and 1888 he took up a position at Fukuro, being appointed a full judge in September the same year. Some inkling of his past life coming to light, he was spoken of as the robber judge, which coming to the ears of the police, an inspector who was acquainted with the circumstances connected with his previous arrest, was despatched to the place, and he was there as the escaped convict, immediately arrested him and conveyed him to Nagasaki.

SUPREME COURT.
IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.
(Before Sir James Russell, Chief Justice.)
March 23rd.

LAU TIT LAM v. SORABJEE JORABJEE BHABA.

This was an action in which the plaintiff asked for an injunction against the erection of a public latrine by the defendant.

Mr. Pollock, instructed by Messrs. Caldwell and Wilkinson, appeared for the plaintiff, and Dr. Ho Kai, instructed by Mr. Ho Wyson, appeared on behalf of the defendant.

Mr. Pollock said the plaintiff was the owner and occupier of a house, No. 5, Tung Shing Lane, and he asked for an injunction restraining the defendant from erecting a public latrine on land recently occupied by houses Nos. 1 and 3, Tung Shing Lane. The circumstances of the case, were that the plaintiff was a trader, having a shop at No. 73, Bonham Strand, and residing at No. 5, Tung Shing Lane. The defendant was a broker and a public latrine, which the plaintiff alleged would cause a nuisance, and will also depreciate the value of plaintiff's premises. The defendant, in his answer, says the latrine will be kept according to regulations laid down, and he denies that it will depreciate the value of the premises. The plaintiff alleges that a nuisance will be caused to him, and also that the defendant is wrongfully putting his premises, to such a use, as to depreciate the market value of his property. In answer to that, the present it was not necessary to prove that there would be a danger to life, but only to prove that the erection of a latrine would interfere with the ordinary comfort of human existence. They contended that absolutely the worst place had been selected.

His lordship asked, if the latrine, was being erected with the sanction of the Sanitary Board or the Government, or by the defendant for his own particular interest, and he said—

Mr. Pollock said the defendant was erecting it for his own benefit.

Dr. Ho Kai said it was being erected for the public benefit.

Mr. Pollock said that the defendant had a public latrine on the same site in 1856, section 10, it was provided that power could be given by the Surveyor-General for the erection of latrines, but that ordinance was repealed by Ordinance 15 of 1880, and therefore the defendant was simply erecting the latrine for trade, and considered it to be the best use for which he could put his property to.

The defendant was acting on his own behalf and not by any Public Board. Tung Shing Lane was practically a small area, it was only one end, 10 feet 3 inches at the outer end, and only 63 feet in length. On each side of the lane houses of three stories and five stories were erected, the only entrance to those houses being by the way in. Wellington Street. There was no provision of drainage in the lane, and the proposed latrine would only be a nuisance to the plaintiff's windows. Under these

circumstances they contended it would be no nuisance, and would depreciate the property of plaintiff. The walls of the latrine had been run up to some height, but during the day the work had been stopped.

Mr. R. K. Leigh, civil engineer and architect, said he had visited Tung Shing Lane, which runs south from Wellington Street. He had measured the length of the houses opening on to it, from which he made the plan produced. The approach to it was up a stone stair which led into a passage five feet wide. The lane was 53 feet long, 11 feet wide at the northern end, and 10 feet 3 inches at the other. There was no other entrance to the lane except by the narrow way. The houses in the lane were three and five stories. The latrine had been partly built, one wall being 15 feet high and a cross-wall about 8 feet in height. The area of the latrine inside the walls was eight hundred square feet. The distance from the plaintiff's nearest window was 3 feet 6 inches. He had seen the plan of the proposed latrine. On the ground floor was provided five urinal pans each two feet high. Persons passing by the door of the latrine, and persons living in the opposite, would have an uninterrupted view into the latrine. There was also provision made for the erection of forty closets on each floor. There were four large ventilators provided to ventilate the lower floor through the upper floor, terminating in one lantern. There were also two 7 inch ventilators to the back wall, which came out just against the roof, and another 4 inch vent on the N.E. corner. The latrine was just about on a level with the upper floor windows of the plaintiff's house, from which it was distant 24 feet. The gases would go all through the lane. The latrine was certainly not in a good situation and was not suitable, because it was enclosed by three solid walls and would only open on the side which opened into the lane. There was only one door and three small windows on the ground floor, one of the latter opened into the main and the other two into the staircase, so that the air admitted through the latter would ascend up the staircase, leaving the ground floor without sufficient ventilation. The latrine would have the effect of depreciating all the property in the lane. The percentage of depreciation would almost be fifty per cent. He had had no interest in the building of the houses.

Cross-examined—He knew several privately owned latrines. He was certainly of opinion that property would be depreciated by the existence of a latrine. By experience he knew persons objected to residing near a latrine. He could not give an instance where property had depreciated through the existence of a latrine. He knew the public latrine in the Tung Mun Lane, approached from the Praya. He would say that the property in proximity thereto had depreciated in value.

By his lordship—There was no arrangement for drainage, except by surface channels leading to the sink.

Surgeon-Major F. E. Barrow, Army Medical Staff, said as an Army officer he had been in the habit of inspecting the sanitary arrangements of barracks. He had inspected Tung Shing Lane on two occasions and had seen the latrine which was partially erected. He did not think a more suitable site for a latrine could have been selected. Most probably the existence of such a latrine would affect the health of the inhabitants in the lane. He was of opinion that noxious vapours would enter the plaintiff's house, particularly during the hot months. He never knew of a public latrine being erected on a site surrounded by houses.

Cross-examined—He was not acquainted with public latrines in the colony. He had had some experience of Chinese houses and was of opinion that a latrine should have thorough ventilation in every direction.

By his lordship—Do not think that any attention would render the latrine perfectly free from being injurious to health.

At this stage the court adjourned.

March 24th.

LEUNG KIT LUM v. S. J. BHABA.

This case was resumed this morning. Mr. Pollock, instructed by Messrs. Caldwell and Wilkinson, appeared on behalf of the plaintiff, and Dr. Ho Kai, instructed by Mr. Ho Wyson, was for the defendant.

The evidence of the plaintiff and several of the residents in the lane was then taken, all of whom objected to the erection of a latrine.

Dr. Ho Kai said if it could be shown that the nuisance was irretrievable and that it tended to depreciate the property and was injurious to the health of the inhabitants the Court might grant an injunction, but the Court must first be thoroughly satisfied that such a nuisance would be caused, and that permanent injury to health and property would result. The plaintiff called witnesses to prove that if the latrine were erected injury to the inhabitants would result, but nothing had been established. Scientific witnesses had stated in their opinion if the latrine was erected it would be injurious to the health of the neighbourhood, but that was only an opinion. The nuisance did not exist at present and the only point was the danger to be apprehended, a danger which so far existed only in the minds of the witnesses. The plaintiff had not proved that there was any real danger to health, neither was there any evidence as to depreciation of property. Mr. Leigh had said that in his opinion the property would be depreciated, but he had not been able to mention an instance in which such a thing had occurred. No one perhaps would like a latrine put up next door to them, but it was one thing to dislike such a place and another to show that the nuisance was so injurious as to require an injunction to prevent its erection.

S. J. Bhaba, cross-examined by Mr. Pollock, said he would not doubt be a slight depreciation in the surrounding property caused by the erection of the latrine. There might be a depreciation of fifteen to twenty per cent. If he was in the plaintiff's position he would object to the erection of a latrine next door to his house.

His lordship, addressing Dr. Ho Kai, said he thought it was useless for him to proceed any further with the case. The defendant admitted doing wrong to a neighbour which he would not allow to be done to himself. The position of the proposed latrine was a most improper one, and the defendant was erecting it for his own particular benefit. There were dwelling houses all round in which women and children lived and the defendant most emphatically says he would object to it himself, as the Chinese do themselves, besides which he says, the property would be depreciated by fifteen to twenty per cent. He (his lordship) thought it was ridiculous to go on. He would grant a perpetual injunction to restrain the defendant from erecting the latrine.

Mr. Pollock applied for costs which were allowed.

YAU-MA-TI SHELLS.

The Royal Artillery, in accordance with an official notification to the effect that they would practice firing from the Kowloon East battery in (South-easterly and Westerly directions on the 24th instant, set to work with their big guns on an early hour on the 23rd. All went well until a quarter past eleven when a huge Palliser shell, which should have gone in a westerly direction over Yau-ma-ti, suddenly exploded whilst firing over the Police Station situated in that sector of the village. The missile broke into five pieces, one of which whizzed past a constable

standing on "Perry's Plot" at the back of the Police Station and tearing up the ground for a distance of ten feet, glanced off the soil, struck a wall about 100 feet away, spent its force against it and left a breach of five feet by five; just to show that it was harder than the substance with which it had come in contact. Luckily no one was on the other side of the wall; had there been any one there it is extremely doubtful whether they would have lived to tell the tale. Another fragment passed clean through the brick walls of two houses, (such to the astonishment of the numerous occupants, who at first thought it was an inflated spirit) in a quest of victims. Having spent its force in this fashion the fragment remained embedded in the side wall of another house. Had its course been about 10 feet to the northward, it would have gone right down the crowded main thoroughfare of the village, carrying death and destruction along its route. Fortunately no one was injured.

Another portion of the Palliser bomb crashed through a garden wall and buried itself about five feet deep in the ground on the other side, while of two other fragments one went blazing into the water close to the Yau-ma-ti ferry-launch pier, and the other, caused a slight agitation amongst the crews of the numerous junks and sampans lying at anchor in Yau-ma-ti Bay.

Inspector Hanson at once sent information to the officer in charge of the shell practice, and requested him to despatch an officer to take note of the damage caused by the "iron ball," as our Chinese friends are pleased to term every description of shell and cannon ball. An officer soon turned up, the Police put the five pieces together to prove that they were parts of one shell, showed him the gaps in the houses, the shattered field, and the broken wall, and allowed his assistants to carry the very unwelcome visitor back to the officer directing the practice. The police were told that the shell was an "uncharged Palliser," which, if true, proves once more that Hongkong is a colony in which the most remarkable and mysterious phenomena are almost as common as ice in the Arctic regions, snow on the top of Mt. Blanc, truth in the Gospel of St. John, and—well, yes, justice in our local Supreme Court.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

A CHALLENGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."—Sir,—"As we have arrived here on a round-the-world tour we would like to add as many interesting events to our tour books as we possibly can at all the places we touch at. Now we would like to challenge the members of the Hongkong Civil Service to play us a friendly game of cricket to be played after our pending departure against the H.K.C. If some enthusiastic member of the service would come forward and arrange a team, in response to our challenge, I feel sure a match could be easily arranged.

And, moreover, as we have a number of ladies on board the *E. of L.*, do you think it likely that, should they issue a challenge to play the ladies of Hongkong a friendly game of cricket, it would be accepted? I would be glad of an opinion on this point.

Yours truly,

A GLOBE-TROTTER.

Hongkong, 24th March, 1891.

[In the interests of sport we are sorry that we cannot at once assure our enthusiastic globe-trotting friend that each and all the 'gentle' that he, or his fellow-passengers may throw down, will be readily taken up in Hongkong, but when it comes to a ladies' cricket match—well, we would rather let the fair dames answer for themselves. However, any proposals made to the genial Hon. Sec. of the H. K. C. C. will no doubt meet with a cordial reception.—Ed., *H. K. Telegraph*.]

THE BALMORAL GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the first annual general meeting, to be held at the Hongkong Hotel, on Thursday, the 26th March, 1891, at 2.30 p.m.:

The Directors beg to submit their First Annual Report with Balance Sheet duly audited to 30th September, 1890, for your approval.

The Directors regret that the cost of getting the mine into working order and also the cost of the mine have so greatly exceeded the estimated amounts. The original estimate for machinery included only a second-hand to head Battery and no air-compressing plant was provided for. It was not found possible to obtain this Battery and it was decided to purchase new machinery. The Company's Agent in Sydney put the whole matter of machinery into the hands of a Consulting Engineer, and the estimates of that gentleman have been greatly exceeded and a great deal of the work supported to have been executed under his supervision has been rendered defective.

The Company have been unfortunate in the delay and additional expense caused by the heavy rains and floods at and in the vicinity of the mine during the past year.

Mr. Ojinge, being in Australia at the end of June last, was requested to visit the mines and his report was circulated among the shareholders. In consequence of the Report, an Extraordinary General Meeting was held on August 21st, and an increase of \$50,000 to the capital was resolved upon, to enable the plant to be supplemented by necessary machinery. It is now proposed to purchase a half-interest in the Eureka Mine. The increased capital was deemed amply sufficient for all purposes but this has not proved to be the case.

A long delay occurred before the period of the first crushing; this was explained by letters to be caused by the rains and floods, making cartage and erection of machinery very difficult, and there were also defects in the machinery.

The original Air-Compressor was obtained second-hand from Melbourne and was pronounced to be powerful enough to work eight drills, it would not however drive two new Compressors had therefore to be purchased and is now erected and is guaranteed to work five drills. The pump for supplying the Battery proved too small and the Frue Vanners and Shaking Tables took some time to work satisfactorily.

When these difficulties had been overcome and crushing was expected to be resumed vigorously at the beginning of this year, still further delay occurred, and it was determined that the foundation for the Battery Bunker, which was on made ground, had slightly subsided with the result that the Bunker would not rotate steams.

These misfortunes and delays have caused a great extra expenditure, and at the present moment the Company is in debt. Funds are now urgently required to pay off existing liabilities, and to provide two months wages for working the headings in the mine, so as to obtain good stone.

It has been proposed to raise \$15,000, and an Extraordinary Meeting will be held for this purpose immediately after the Ordinary General Meeting.

The crushings which have been obtained from the Balmoral Mine, resulted as follows: 140 tons of stone produced 7700 lb of free gold and 15 tons of pyrites, which latter are expected to yield of

least a further 100 ounces of gold or say in all 15 dwts. to the ton.

These results are considered satisfactory, inasmuch as the stone was only taken from stopes left by the exploratory work of former owners. It is confidently expected that within two months good shoots of gold will be exposed, and a continuous satisfactory, turn-out will be commenced.

The purchase of the Eureka property has been supplemented by the purchase of the lease of the Queen of the Mount Mine, and there is an intervening block of ground which has been applied for. The Directors are of opinion that these properties will prove exceedingly valuable, and it will be only the question of a few months to prove this; the total expense is estimated not to exceed \$3,000. It is proposed after the proving and exploratory work, to either sell the properties or form a subsidiary company.

During the absence of Mr. A. P. Stokes, Mr. C. J. Hirst occupied a seat at the Board. Under Article XV Section 5 of the Articles of Association Messrs. A. P. Stokes and E. L. Woodin retire from the Board but offer themselves for re-election.

The annexed accounts have been audited by Mr. W. Needham who is eligible for re-election.

GEO. R. STEVENS,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 20th March, 1891.

BALANCE SHEET, 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1890.

Dr. Assets.
Property—
5,000 Shares allotted to Vendor deemed fully paid up at \$10 \$50,000.00
Purchase money in Cash, \$3,500 35,539.61

Settlement with
Tributors, 100 639.51

Cost of Balmoral Mine, \$103,789.12
FitzGibbon's Gold Lease
475 Bathurst, 100 648.65
"Eureka" Property, (1 Share), £1,500 7,912.09
Matheson & Wood's Gold Leases 1 & 404 £350 1,892.96

Plant, Machinery & Build-
ings \$22,882.13
Brickmakers 1,064.54

Dam Account \$3,437.99
Surface Works 6,349.00

Timber Account 154.95
Stores Account 186.24
Horse Account 261.89

Office Furniture 202.51
At Head Office, Sydney Office & Mine Cash—
In Bank \$8,682.16
In Hand 85.08

Accounts Receivable 8,757.24
Balance at Debit of Working Account 15,974.33

Cr. Liabilities.
First issue of 10,000
Shares at \$10 \$100,000.00
Allotted to Vendor in part
payment of Mine, 5,000
Shares at \$10 50,000.00

New issue 3,000 Shares
of at \$10 30,000.00
Unallotted 786 Shares

Of which un-
paid at date 442 " 2,214 " 2,214 " 2,214 "

Received 1,772 " 17,720.00
on at \$10 \$167,720.00

Accounts Payable 5,626.80
Sundry Amounts due 105.72
Manager at Sydney 226.24
Amount due him, £41.16.7 19,149.85

WORKING ACCOUNT.
Preliminary Expenses 2,153.09
Charges 5,370.32
Salaries 1,800.00
Exchange 1,862.88
Miners' Wages 6,548.20
Crushing Expenses 950.84

Gold Account 2,350.35
Interest Account 729.17
Transfer Fees Account 90.00
Balance 13,974.33

K. A. STEVENS,
Secretary.

I have compared the above Statements with the Company's Books, Vouchers and Returns received from Sydney and the Mine, and hereby certify the same to be in accordance therewith.

W. NEEDHAM,
Auditor.

PROGRAMME OF THE SHANGHAI
SPRING RACE MEETING.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY,
27th, 28th and 29th April, 1891.

Stewards—A. McLeod, Esq.; W. Howie, Esq.; J. Macgregor, Esq.; O. Schuffenhauer, Esq.; Robt. Mackenzie, Esq.; H. J. H. Trippe, Esq.; B. A. Clarke, Esq. Clerk of the Course—T. F. Hough, Esq. Secretary—Harriss Dallas, Esq.

FIRST DAY—MONDAY, 27TH APRIL.
THE HART LEAGUE CUP, presented by the late James Hart, value, Tls. 100; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. Half-mile.

THE CRITERION STAKES, A Sweepstakes of Tls. 10 each, with Tls. 100 added; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; second pony to save his stake. One mile.

THE GRIFIN PLATE, value, Tls. 250; for China ponies that have never run at any meeting; second pony, Tls. 50; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. Three-quarters of a mile.

THE CATHAY CUP, value, Tls. 150; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; Griffin at date of entry allowed 7 lbs extra; Tls. 5. One mile and a half.

THE JOCKEY CUP, value, Tls. 100; for China ponies that have never won a race; to be ridden by jockeys who have never had a fall.

winning mount before this meeting; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. Once round.

THE KIANOSU PLATE, value, Tls. 150; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. One mile and three-quarters.

THE RACING STAKES, a sweepstakes of Tls. 10 each; for China ponies that have never run before 1st January, 1891; griffins at date of entry allowed 5 lbs; weight for inches as per scale; winners, 5 lbs extra. One mile and a quarter.

THE ROADSTERS' PLATE, value, Tls. 100; for China ponies (without restriction to height) not otherwise entered at this meeting, and that have never won a race; weight, 10st 12lb; entrance, Tls. 5. Once round.

THE CHESAREWITCH STAKES, a sweepstakes of Tls. 10 each; for China ponies, being *bona fide* griffins at date of entry, and which have arrived in Shanghai after 28th February, 1891; weight for inches as per scale; winners of a race, 7 lbs extra. One mile.

SECOND DAY—TUESDAY, 28TH APRIL.
THE CHU-KA-ZA CUP, value, Tls. 100; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; winners of one race since 1st October, 1890, 7 lbs extra; two more races, 10 lbs extra; entrance, Tls. 5. Half-mile.

THE SHANGHAI DERBY, a Sweepstakes of Tls. 15 each, with Tls. 100 added; for China ponies being *bona fide* griffins at date of entry; first pony to receive 75 per cent; second pony, 15 per cent; third pony, 10 per cent; weight for inches as per scale. One mile and a half.

THE LADIES' PURSE, value, for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. One mile and a quarter.

THE RACE CLUB CUP, value, Tls. 150; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; winners at this meeting of a race of one mile or under to carry 3 lbs extra; over a mile, 7 lbs extra; penalties accumulative up to 10 lbs; entrance, Tls. 5. Two miles.

THE CONCORDIA CUP, value, Tls. 100; presented by members of the Club Concordia, added to a sweepstakes of Tls. 10 each; second pony to receive 40 per cent; third pony, 20 per cent of the stakes; for China ponies *bona fide* griffins at date of entry; weight for inches as per scale; winner of the Derby, 5 lbs extra. One mile and a half.

THE SPRING CUP, value, Tls. 100; added to a sweepstakes of Tls. 10 each, less Tls. 50 to the second pony; for China ponies that have never won a race; weight, 11st 13 lbs; to give or take 5 lb. for every inch over or under. One mile.

THE SHANGHAI STAKES; a forced entry of Tls. 5 for all ponies, except those entered in the Roadsters' Plate; first pony to receive 75 per cent; second pony to receive 15 per cent; third pony, 10 per cent of the stakes; weight for inches as per scale. One mile and a half.

THE TAIWAT'S CUP, value, Tls. 100; presented by H.E. the Taiwats; for China ponies; weight, 12st 12lb; winners at this meeting, 5 lbs extra. Tls. 5 one mile.

THE CHAU SHANG KIUK CUP; value Tls. 100; founded by the Directors and employees of the C. M. S. N. Co.; for China ponies that have never run at any meeting in China or Hongkong previous to date of entry at each meeting; or three times in all, by ponies, the *bona fide* property of the same owner or owners; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 10; 80 per cent of the entrance fees to go to the winners until the cup is won, when the second pony shall receive same; the remaining 20 per cent to be allowed to accumulate, and the accumulation in excess of Tls. 500 (to be retained for a new cup) is to be paid to the winner. One mile.

THIRD DAY—WEDNESDAY, 29TH APRIL.
THE GARAT NORTHERN PLATE, value, Tls. 100; for ponies that have run at this meeting; weight for inches as per scale; winner of one race at this meeting under a mile, 7 lbs extra, two such races, 10 lbs extra; entrance, Tls. 5. Seven furlongs.

THE PARI-MUTUEL CUP, value, Tls. 200; added to a sweepstakes of Tls. 10 each; second pony to receive 30 per cent, and the third pony 10 per cent of the stakes; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; griffins at date of entry allowed 7 lbs; non-starters and winners at this meeting, 7 lbs extra. One mile and a half.

THE "SANS SOUCI" CHALLENGE CUP; value, Tls. 100; presented by D. E. SASSON, Esq.; for China ponies that have never run previous to the 1st January of the year in which the meetings are held to be won at two consecutive meetings of the same owner or owners; weight for inches as per scale; winners of one race, 5 lbs extra; two or more races, 8 lbs extra; griffins at date of entry allowed 7 lbs; Non-starters at the meeting excluded; entrance Tls. 10; the first pony to receive seventy-five per cent of the entrance fees, and the second pony twenty-five per cent, until the cup is finally won, when the second pony shall receive seventy-five per cent of the entrance fees, and the third pony twenty-five per cent. One mile and a quarter.

THE MANCHU STAKES, value, Tls. 100; for China ponies, *bona fide* griffins at date of entry, which have run and not won a race; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. One mile and a quarter.

THE YAMOTSE STAKES, value, Tls. 150; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; winner of a race of two miles or over, 5 lbs extra; Entrance, Tls. 5. Two miles and a half.

THE CONSOLATION CUP, value, Tls. 100; for ponies that have run at this meeting and not won a race; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. Once round.

THE CHAMPION SWEEPSTAKES, a forced entry for, and open only to winners at this meeting; optional for the winners of the Consolation Cup and the Roadsters' Plate, not exceeding 14 hands 3 inches in height; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 10; winners of two races, Tls. 15 extra; of more than two races, Tls. 20 extra. One mile and a quarter.

THE GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE, value, Tls. 150; for China ponies; second pony, Tls. 50; weight for inches as per scale; winners of a Steeplechase at any previous meeting in Shanghai, 5 lbs extra; non-winners of a Steeplechase allowed 5 lb; entrance, Tls. 5. Twice round a course selected by the Stewards. Entries close at 4 p.m. on Saturday, 24th April.

CANTON.
(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)
CANTON, 21st March 1891.
Great preparations are being made here for the reception of the Emperor, who is expected to reach Canton about the 6th of April. His Imperial Highness and the Duke of Sparta will be the guests of Monsieur Imbarr-Haut at the French Consulate who is understood to have tendered the hospitality of the Consulate under instructions from the French Government. Every endeavour is being made by the French Consulate to make his visit distinguished guests visit a pleasant one. The

Victory is also making preparations for entertaining the Russian Prince and his party in the city, and the new Public Reception Hall in the eastern part of Canton is being decorated and prepared for their reception.

The drainage works on the French Concession have been commenced, and on beginning the excavations two interesting facts were disclosed, one being the existence of a very substantial system of drainage. It seems a pity that before the present design of drainage was submitted, there were not already in existence drains which could be utilized, more especially as there were several outfalls from the French band visible at low water, and but a few inches of mud choked the mouths of others. It is also difficult to understand why the existing drains should be destroyed and not made use of in some manner, more especially as the bottom of one of the old drains intersecting Peking Avenue, to the eastward of the French Police Station, appears to be exactly on the same level as the new drain, which has been blasted by the new plan, and rendered useless.

The other discovery so-entirely was that of a battery of old guns destroyed by the British in 1841. What makes this latter discovery more interesting still is, that two of the guns are of a size and calibre which at that period were unknown in warfare in Europe or America. They bear an inscription in Chinese showing their weight to be 5 tons, and that they were cast in Fat-shan in 1841 for the use of the Chinese with a European Power. A memorial of these guns is to be erected in the centre of the French Recreation Ground with the large one in the centre. The other large gun, as represented the largest ordnance in the world, manufactured in the year the colony of Hongkong was founded, should be secured by the City Hall Museum of Hongkong and preserved as an interesting historical relic, showing that the Chinese, ahead of us in the invention of gunpowder, were also ahead in that of heavy ordnance, and although they have failed to keep up with the times in this direction they are still striving to attain a high proficiency in this respect.

The Tartar-General leaves this city for Peking on the second day of the next Chinese moon, and is not expected to return to his post. Our popular Superintendent of Chinese Telegraphs, Mr. O. Müller, proceeds upon an official tour of inspection up the coast, and will be absent about a month.

TIENTSIN.

(From our Correspondent.)

March 14th, 1891.

We have had several heavy falls of snow during the past few days, three inches have fallen here, but it is much heavier around Peking, too, the fall there being six inches. The Chinese are quite jubilant over this state of affairs, for the soil hitherto has been so parched that the winter wheat crop has been threatened with destruction.

Our ice-house keepers are beginning to lay in their supplies for the summer. The ice is mainly taken from the flooded plain behind the Settlement, and which there were fully eight inches of ice when the first snow at its height. No ice was taken from the river this year.

The two Krupp guns which burst on October 28th last, at Port Arthur, are to be taken to Essen to be repaired, it being impossible to do this in China, though it was thought at first they could be patched up at the Arsenal. On examination, the muzzle of one was found to be completely shattered, while the damage to the rifling of the other was found to be so excessive that to attempt to repair it here was decided to be hopeless.

Since there has not been so many commercial failures to mark the opening months as heretofore, last year especially, a great number having taken place before this date. Up to the present, however, this year a few trifling collapses only have been reported, and our Chinese friends look forward to a most successful year commercially.

Since the German Bank was opened it has done very considerable business with the Chinese, which is another proof that the traders are doing well and that credit is good. The past year has been a very good one at Peking also, and no big disaster is reported.

The Chinese at the end of May the long talked of Peking-Tientsin line will be opened with full, and that on the old terms and conditions, and if so, good-bye to the grand Railway Loan of Tls. 3,000,000 which the Germans and Americans have so often declared they had secured, but for which, however, the Americans seemed to be the favorites. They were prepared, they said, to lend the money on a silver basis at 7 per cent. For the 18 years the interest only was to be repayable, but both principal and interest were to be paid up fully in the following twenty years. The Germans were going to charge 4.45 per cent, repayable in 10 years.

Prince Ching is now acting as President of the Board of the late Prince Chun; but only temporarily, however, till Prince Kung takes up the office. Her Majesty, the Empress Dowager has decided to accept the refusal of Prince Kung to assume the honours of his deceased brother, and it is said the Shik Board, the T'ung-li Yung and the Grand Council have memorialized the Throne to have Prince Kung appointed to the vacant post.

Last night the *Illus*, whose amateur theatrical club was so successful here, left Tientsin, and as the *Aspie* is to leave to-morrow the *Palos* will be the last of our popular naval visitors remaining in port.

The scheme for cutting a canal in a south-westerly direction from the Peiho to the sea has been dropped, and it is now proposed to straighten the course of the river by cutting through the bends, as reported in your northern contemporary of Saturday last. The scheme was carried out under the superintendence of Mr. A. Lind, who with the Tientsin and Customs Tientsin, made an inspection of the river the day before yesterday. The work of cutting it to be done by the troops. If the operations are undertaken and to be on a successful basis, it is feared that little water as we have at times in the river now, we will have less when the work is finished. There are many people who ought to know something about such matters here, who entertain grave doubts about the scheme, and declare that the thing that can be done with the river is what Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. under the advice of Mr. W. Peves, proposed in 1884. The villagers strongly objected to the Tientsin and Messrs. Jardine and Lind making the inspection, and at last they turned out in such numbers and looked so threatening that the gentlemen thought it better to give up their surveying for that day.

March 6th.
The *Aspie* left to-day at noon, the *Illus* having crossed the bar some hours before, and got away without any mishap.

It has not yet been definitely decided whether or not the Emperor will go to the Western Tombs to worship next month.

Shanghai Mercury, March 7th.
The Tientsin and Hankow Tientsin and the engineering Tientsin. We have had several visits to these towns in the river which it is proposed to improve. The villagers, always apprehensive that they may suffer from drought, have been

making some difficulties, and if there is any instance on the part of any of the Tientsin to improvements being made, there is here an opportunity of raising an auxiliary force of obstruction.

The usual exodus of residents has begun: Mr. and Mrs. Leith and Mrs. Pearson have left by steamer *Haiting* this morning, the steamer having been detained by the courtesy of the Viceroy for the convenience of the travellers.

The German gunboat *Illus* left the Tientsin Bund on Wednesday morning the 4th inst, and proceeded down the river. Many friends assembled to see Captain Ascher and the officers off, and the town band played some of the airs of the Vaterland.

The French gunboat *Aspie* left on Friday, and numerous friends went on board and wished the officers *bon voyage*.—Chinese Times.

Banks.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$9,266,677.07
RESERVE FUND 6,806,196.31
RESERVE LIABILITY OF
PROPRIETORS 9,266,677.07

COURT OF DIRECTORS—
CHAIRMAN—J. S. MOORE, Esq.
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN—S. C. MICHAELSEN, Esq.
H. L. DALRYMPLE, Esq.; J. H. KESWICK,
T. E. DAVIES, Esq.; A. MC DONAGH, Esq.
W. H. FORBES, Esq.; D. R. SASSON, Esq.
C. J. HOLLIWAY, Esq.; H. HOFFBUS, Esq.

ACTING CHIEF MANAGER—
HONGKONG—F. DE BOVIS, Esq.
MANAGER—
SHANGHAI—JOHN WALTER, Esq.
LONDON BANKERS—LONDON AND
COUNTY BANK.

HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED.
ON CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT
at the rate of 3 per cent. per Annum on the
full balance.

ON FIXED DEPOSITS—
For 1 month, 1 per cent. per Annum.
For 6 months, 4 per cent. per Annum.
For 12 months, 5 per cent. per Annum.

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.
CREDITS granted on approved Securities,
and every description of BANKING and
EXCHANGE business transacted.

DRAFTS granted on London, and the chief
commercial places in Europe, India, Australia,
America, China and Japan.

F. DE BOVIS,
Acting Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 28th February, 1891.

RULES

OF THE
HONGKONG SAVINGS
BANK.

THE BUSINESS of the above BANK
will be conducted by the HONGKONG
AND SHANGHAI BANKING
CORPORATION, on their premises in
Hongkong. Business Hours on WEEK-
DAYS, 10 to 12; SATURDAYS, 10 to 12.

SUMS LESS THAN \$1, OR MORE THAN
\$500 at one time will not be received. No
Depositor may deposit more than \$4,500
in any one year.

DEPOSITORS in the SAVINGS BANK,
having \$100, or more, at their credit may at
their option transfer the same to the HONG-
KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING
CORPORATION on fixed deposit for 12
months at 5 per cent. per annum interest.

INTEREST at the rate of 3 1/2 per
annum will be allowed to Depositors on
their daily balances.

EACH DEPOSITOR will be supplied gratis
with a PASS-BOOK, which must be presented
with each payment or withdrawal.
Depositors must not make any entries them-
selves in their PASS-BOOKS, but should send
them to be written up at least twice a year,
about the beginning of January and
beginning of July.

CORRESPONDENCE as to the Business
of the Bank, if marked ON HONGKONG
SAVINGS BANK BUSINESS, will be
forwarded free by the various British Post
Offices in Hongkong and China.

WITHDRAWALS may be made on demand,
but the personal attendance of the
Depositor or his duly appointed Agent, and
the production of his PASS-BOOK, are
necessary.

FOR THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION,
F. DE BOVIS,
Acting Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 1st January, 1891.

Commercial.

THE WEEK'S SHARE BUSINESS.

Hongkong, March 24th.
The market has again been decidedly
brisk during the past week, and a con-
siderable amount of business has been
done in the various stocks, most of which
remain steady.

Banks declined to 237 per cent, but
after some sales had been effected at that
rate they had a firmer tendency, and closed
in strong demand.

New Issues were done at \$315 and more
shares can be had at this rate.

In Shipping stocks, Steamboats were
done at 363 and are now wanted at 364.
Douglas were done at 48, and a number
of China and Manila shares have
changed hands at 125, and afterwards
at 127. For June they were done at 135
and are now offered at 134.

Mining stocks have been quiet, and there
are but few alterations to be made to the
quotations of last week. Imvuls are offering
at 15; Charbonnages at 450, Punjoms at 24.
Balmorals at 8, and Selamas at 81 per
share.

During the week Docks advanced
steadily from 89 per cent, to 95 per cent,
and some very large sales have been
effected at intermediate rates, principally
for forward dates. Business was done in
them at 98 per cent. for April, at 101 per cent.
for June, and at 105 per cent. for August.
These rates, however, could not be main-
tained very long, and the scrip declined
to 93 per cent. for cash, at which figure
shares were for a time freely offered, but a
reaction has again set in and they are now
in strong demand at 97.

EXCHANGE.
On LONDON—Bank, 7/11; T. T. Bank, 7/11;
Bank Bill on demand, 22 1/2; 3 months, 22 1/2;
Bank Bill at 4 months' sight, 22 1/2;
Credits at 4 months' sight, 22 1/2;
Documentary Bill, at 4 months' sight, 22 1/2;
Sight, 22 1/2.

On PARIS—Bank, 100; T. T. Bank, 100;
Bank Bill on demand, 100; 3 months, 100;
Bank Bill at 4 months' sight, 100;
Credits at 4 months' sight, 100;
Documentary Bill, at 4 months' sight, 100;
Sight, 100.

On SHANGHAI—Bank, 100; T. T. Bank, 100;
Bank Bill on demand, 100; 3 months, 100;
Bank Bill at 4 months' sight, 100;
Credits at 4 months' sight, 100;
Documentary Bill, at 4 months' sight, 100;
Sight, 100.

On HANKOW—Bank, 100; T. T. Bank, 100;
Bank Bill on demand, 100; 3 months, 100;
Bank Bill at 4 months' sight, 100;
Credits at 4 months' sight, 100;
Documentary Bill, at 4 months' sight, 100;
Sight, 100.

On HONGKONG—Bank, 100; T. T. Bank, 100;
Bank Bill on demand, 100; 3 months, 100;
Bank Bill at 4 months' sight, 100;
Credits at 4 months' sight, 100;
Documentary Bill, at 4 months' sight, 100;
Sight, 100.

On MANILA—Bank, 100; T. T. Bank, 100;
Bank Bill on demand, 100; 3 months, 100;
Bank Bill at 4 months' sight, 100;
Credits at 4 months' sight, 100;
Documentary Bill, at 4 months' sight, 100;
Sight, 100.

On CEBU—Bank, 100; T. T. Bank, 100;
Bank Bill on demand, 100; 3 months, 100;
Bank Bill at 4 months' sight, 100;
Credits at 4 months' sight, 100;
Documentary Bill, at 4 months' sight, 100;
Sight, 100.

On BATAVIA—Bank, 100; T. T. Bank, 100;
Bank Bill on demand, 100; 3 months, 100;
Bank Bill at 4 months' sight, 100;
Credits at 4 months' sight, 100;
Documentary Bill, at 4 months' sight, 100;
Sight, 100.

On SOERABAYA—Bank, 100; T. T. Bank, 100;
Bank Bill on demand, 100; 3 months, 100;
Bank Bill at 4 months' sight, 100;
Credits at 4 months' sight, 100;
Documentary Bill, at 4 months' sight, 100;
Sight, 100.

On SURABAYA—Bank, 100; T. T. Bank, 100;
Bank Bill on demand, 100; 3 months, 100;
Bank Bill at 4 months' sight, 100;
Credits at 4 months' sight, 100;
Documentary Bill, at 4 months' sight, 100;
Sight, 100.

On YOKOHAMA—Bank, 100; T. T. Bank, 100;
Bank Bill on demand, 100; 3 months, 100;
Bank Bill at 4 months' sight, 100;
Credits at 4 months' sight, 100;
Documentary Bill, at 4 months' sight, 100;
Sight, 100.

A big business was done in Sugar,
China's especially. This stock suddenly
came into public favor, and was quickly
rushed from \$200 up to 213 cash, and also
as high as 220 for the July settlement, at
which rates some shares are reported to
have changed hands. Luzons are quiet
at present and shares are being offered at
105, without meeting with any response.

Miscellaneous.—The scrip of the Bank
of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited,
has declined to 818 cash, and sales